



## Activity One:

# Ethical Decision-Making Checklist

### STEP ONE: DEFINE THE PROBLEM.

- What is the dilemma?
- What information do I need to make a decision?
- What are my choices?
- What values are in conflict?

### STEP TWO: LOOK AT THE OUTCOMES.

- Who will be affected by my decision?
- Are any of the choices I can choose illegal?
- Will my decision affect my friends, family, or coworkers?
- Will I feel guilty about my choice? Why?
- Whom can I turn to for advice? Who is the most ethical person I know?
- Don't go solo. Whom have I noticed that also seems to want to do the right thing?
- How do I want to be seen? Which choice represents my best self?

### STEP THREE: MAKE A DECISION.

- What is the best ethical decision taking all factors into consideration?

#### KEY WORDS

**Ethics** the standards that help determine what is good, right, and proper

**Ethical Dilemma** a situation in which a choice has to be made based on conflicting values

**Values** strong beliefs that influence one's actions

**Core value** a foundational principle or truth that guides your beliefs and behaviors

**Interdependence** the condition of a group when the actions of any part of the group affect another part

## How Ethical Am I?

Consider each scenario. You do not need to mark your answer or share your response. This is your chance to reflect on your personal ethics.

1. Another student has offered you an advance copy of a difficult test. You know that the copy has been stolen. Would you take it?

No  
 Yes  
 Maybe

2. Would you steal if a friend dared you to?

No  
 Yes  
 Maybe

3. Would you shoplift if a friend dared you to?

No  
 Yes  
 Maybe

4. Would you steal if you needed food or medicine and couldn't afford it?

No  
 Yes  
 Maybe

5. Which statement would you agree with?

I'll do whatever it takes to succeed in school.  
 It's important to succeed, but my ethics are important to me.

6. Would you ever consider exaggerating your accomplishments on a job or college application to try to get a better job or get into a better school?

No  
 Yes  
 Maybe

7. Generally speaking, how prepared do you think you are to make ethical decisions?

Somewhat or not prepared  
 Prepared  
 Very or extremely prepared

8. Do you think people who practice good business ethics are more or less successful than those who don't?

Less successful  
 Just as successful  
 More successful  
 Don't know

### Select or circle "Y" for yes, "N" for no.

9. In the past year, have you done the following?

**Y**   **N**   Lied.

**Y**   **N**   Downloaded a song/movie without paying for it.

**Y**   **N**   Cheated on a test.

**Y**   **N**   Copied someone else's words or ideas from the Internet and turned it in without notation.

**Y**   **N**   Posted false information on social media sites.

**Y**   **N**   Cheated in sports.

10. In the past year, do you know of a **friend** who has done the following?

**Y**   **N**   Lied.

**Y**   **N**   Downloaded a song/movie without paying for it.

**Y**   **N**   Cheated on a test.

**Y**   **N**   Copied someone else's words or ideas from the Internet and turned it in without notation.

**Y**   **N**   Posted false information on social media sites.

**Y**   **N**   Cheated in sports.

### 11. Select or circle "T" for true, "F" for false.

**T**   **F**   The majority of high school students think of themselves as ethical.