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Ethics Essay

In today's world, ethics is an important part of our society. We need ethics to create a positive working environment and to create safe working product. Ethics can prevent one person or company from taking advantage of another. Without ethics, the world we live in will degrade and create a hostile environment.

The purpose of having a "Code of Ethics" in the workplace is to govern and guide each employee in good moral direction. These ethics almost act as unwritten rules that provide structure in the working environment. If followed, the company will have a positive and safe working environment along with efficiently producing a safe and useful product. Having a "Code of Ethics" is beneficial for any company.

When I am faced with an ethical situation, I think a lot about it. Sometimes, I may overthink and miss a call to action, but I think based upon ethics that are drilled in me from my parents. Some of things I think about is how I look, what to do/say, and what is the right thing to do. I used to be anti-social, so this hinders me from always acting on a situation. Otherwise, I try to keep in mind ethics at a high level in my daily life.

In my group, we discussed the ethics of the Volkswagen emissions cheating scandal. Since most students have ethics towards our planet's environment, so we all agreed that the cheating scandal was bad. During the discussion, we talked about how Volkswagen violated some IEEE ethics. One being that Volkswagen should accept responsibility for this cheating, and that the founder's descendent took responsibility rather than a boss or employee. Another one was that Volkswagen was not honest about their emissions. By using software to cheat emission tests, they were not honest and lied to the governing agency. This is harmed the environment because 40x more pollutants were emitted into the air. We all came to the conclusion that the best ethical solution is to recall all the cars and re-engineer the car to meet the standards.

In this case study, Volkswagen violated virtues of Integrity, Honesty, and Self-Discipline. Volkswagen violated the virtue Integrity because they lacked moral uprightness and did not practice ethical judgment. I felt that they put money before the environment, and this shows their lack of ethical judgment and moral uprightness. Next, they violated the virtue Honesty because of the act of writing software that cheated the tests. Because the software changed the emissions under test, I felt that they lied and were not honest. Lastly, they violated the virtue Self-Discipline because I felt that they indulged in the self behavior of making money. They put money before the environment, and because of that, they lost their self-discipline. I chose these virtues because they dealt with the greed of money over the environment and lies. They are relevant due to how they acted. They deliberately created software to cheat on emissions test, so their creditability was lost and proved that they did not have self-discipline. Another virtue that I felt that they violated was Responsibility because they were not trustworthy or accountable for their actions. Other virtues that weren't relevant were Fidelity and Charity. In this case study, the actions were not faithful to anything, and they did not show any compassion or good will. At the moment I could not think of any more virtues that were violated. Most of what virtues were violated was mentioned above for the given reasons. If there were any additional virtues, it most likely would be similar to the virtues mentioned above.

After viewing the case study, I was able to see a strong need for a “Code of Ethics”. As we are human, there is always going to be a pull to benefit one’s self rather than the society or company. In the future, we are still going to need some “Code of Ethics” to govern the society and the workplace. I’ll try to continue to follow the moral ethics of society and the “Code of Ethics” in the work place.