

NAME: _____

WHAT'S RIGHT? WHAT'S WRONG?

In today's pluralistic society, it is very difficult to get people to agree on what is right and what is wrong, what is moral and what is immoral. Judge where you stand on each statement according to the scale below.

1 = strongly agree 2 = agree 3 = not sure 4 = disagree 5 = strongly disagree

Statements:

1. There is never a good reason to lie.
2. Cheating on tests or quizzes, even if the teacher is unfair and everyone else is doing it, is always wrong.
3. Abortion is a great assault on innocent human life and can never be justified.
4. It is wrong for a rich country to engage so vigorously in an arms race when it has so many poor people in its midst.
5. Outside of marriage, it is wrong to engage in sexual intercourse and the actions leading up to it.
6. People have an obligation to worship God even if they don't feel like it.
7. Given the efficiency of today's justice systems, it is virtually impossible to justify capital punishment.
8. It would be dangerous and imprudent to lower the age for legalized drinking of alcohol.
9. It is wrong to assess or judge a person by the color of their skin.
10. Pornography—both soft- and hardcore—debases human sexuality. It should be outlawed.
 - Why did you choose as you did?
 - Would your parents agree with your choices?
 - Choose a particular opinion-influencing industry and imagine how individuals in that industry think (for example, music moguls, Hollywood tycoons, Washington lawmakers). Predict how the majority of people in that industry would rate each statement. Offer evidence for your view.

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CHARACTERS WE KNOW

Illustrate from either literature, television, or the movies a character who fits each of the words defined below. Discuss what makes that person moral, immoral, or amoral.

Moral: One who correctly judges between right and wrong and consequently acts on what is virtuous.

Moral Character Example:

Immoral: One who does not act in conformity with accepted principles of right or wrong.

Immoral Character Example:

Amoral: One who is not concerned with any moral standards at all; such a person does not accept any concept of right or wrong.

Amoral Character Example:

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A SELF-EXAMINATION ON THE CARDINAL VIRTUES

How well do you practice the following virtues? Check the appropriate box.

CARDINAL VIRTUES	Very Well	Well	Needs Work
Prudence (sound judgment)			
I respect learning and am open to new ideas.			
I reflect on past mistakes before acting.			
I can recognize goodness, truth, and beauty when I see them, and I can pick out what is evil, false, and ugly.			
Justice (fairness toward others)			
I both acknowledge and respect the rights of others.			
I do my duty, honor my promises, and follow through on my commitments.			
I respect the reputation of others, refrain from gossip and rash judgment, and give others the benefit of the doubt.			
Fortitude (courage)			
I am able to put up with inconvenience, disappointments, and setbacks.			
I am willing to face problems and obstacles and refuse to run away from them.			
I am my own person and make strong efforts to overcome peer pressure, especially when others want me to do wrong.			
Temperance (self-control)			
I can say no to myself and wait for rewards and gratification.			
I enjoy in moderation the pleasures of food, drink, entertainment, sports, and the like.			
I am an actor rather than a reactor. For example, I respect rude people rather than returning nastiness toward them.			

- Add two personal statements for each virtue.
- Which virtue in your life needs the most work right now? State a plan of action for how you can improve in this area of your life.