# Moral Action

## Discussion Questions

1. Can you think of a situation where you wanted to do the right thing, but found yourself unable to do it? What prevented you from acting according to your values?
   1. There have been many times at work when I have seen little opportunities to help someone, and I know I should do it, but struggling with social anxiety pulls me back from doing a lot of those things because I feel awkward approaching them or just think someone else will do it.
2. Can you think of a situation where it was difficult to do the right thing, but you managed to do it? What factors were present that enabled you to live up to your values?
   1. I had a Music in the Humanities class last year, and my grade was so high that I could’ve skipped the final project entirely and still get an A-. I ended up doing the project because I realized that failing to do it would hurt my reputation with professors, my work ethic, and ultimately my GPA, even if just slightly.
3. Can you imagine an ethically tinged problem that you may run into in your future personal or professional life? How do you hope that you will respond when you encounter that problem?
   1. As a computer science major, I might not be very far into the major yet, but I can already tell that I’m likely going to run into situations when I’m tempted to cut corners on a project. There are a lot of preliminary checks and specific situations that it’s very important to account for, especially if a client requests it, and even though a project can be “finished” without them and work perfectly fine and no one would notice, it wouldn’t be fulfilling what the client is requesting, therefore being the wrong thing to do. Fortunately, since I’m a very detail-oriented person, it’s easy for me to identify my gut feeling and act on it accordingly.
4. What does it mean to take “moral ownership”? Can you think of a situation where you took moral ownership? And of one where you did not?
   1. To me, taking moral ownership is accepting and admitting that you are responsible for the actions of morality that you make or for a certain situation. One example of me taking moral ownership was in 10th grade when I sorted out a situation with my friend using my paper to cheat on a math assignment. My intentions were to help him understand the steps since I had them written down, but I was still partly at fault for allowing him to use it in the first place.
5. How does a person go about deciding how and when to take moral ownership?
   1. Anything that involves any action a person makes requires them to take moral ownership, even if it ends with them denying it and making an immoral choice. Also, any time someone does something that would influence another person’s moral choices or allowing someone else to influence their own moral choices, that person should take moral ownership.