

# Assignment 1

*by* Jardel Mitchell

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Question 1

- i. Define negative rights and positive rights. Give an example of a negative right and positive right that are in conflict.
- ➔ "A negative right is a right not to be interfered with, a right that imposes no obligation upon others except that of non-interference.", the focus of negative rights is the focus of limiting other from interfering with an individual's life, liberty and property.
  - ➔ Positive rights are "positive", that they claim for each person in a positive assistance of others in the fulfillment of basic constituents of human well-being, eg health and education.
  - ➔ Conflict can arise when an individual exercises their negative right to property in a way that harms the environment. For example, if a property owner engages in activities that lead to pollution, deforestation, or other forms of environmental degradation, it may infringe upon the positive right of others to live in a clean and healthy environment. Those affected by environmental harm may argue that their positive right to a clean environment takes precedence over the property owner's negative right to use their property as they see fit.  
This conflict highlights the need to balance the rights of individuals to control their property with the collective interest in protecting the environment for the common good. It often leads to debates over government regulations, property rights, and environmental protection measures.

Question 2

- a) What should OnlyFans' CEO have done when investors, regulators, content creators, users, and communities pulled OnlyFans in different directions and expressed opposing ethical views?
- ➔ The CEO of OnlyFans should have initiated open and transparent conversations with stakeholders along with conduction of an ethical analysis. As this analysis approach is a systematic approach to figuring out the right moral decision, by analyzing the situation logically in accordance to ethical code of conduct. This would have taken into consideration the potential impact on the autonomy and well being of content creators, users and community perspectives.
- b) How was an open platform like OnlyFans supposed to know what was ethical and what was not?
- ➔ Through the clear establishment of clear community guidelines that would have outlines the acceptability of particular content. As this would have addressed issue in terms of explicit content distribution. Through the establishment of these guidelines, communication with ethical consultant experts would have aided with the development of the guidelines of the OnlyFans

platform.

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c) Was it a CEO's job to act like an ethics scholar and take sides in such contentious ethical debates? Explain your answer.

→ The role of a CEO is not to act as an ethical scholar, the CEO's role is to shape, monitor and maintain the company's business rules and models comply with a particular upward trajectory. The CEO can make statements and also decide on particular ethical values, but mainly as it complies with the company's guidelines and goals. Thus communicating with stakeholders and clients, further taking a balanced or semi neutral stand point.

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d) Evaluate hosting sexually explicit content on OnlyFans from:

i) Social Contract Theory perspective

- "Social Contract Theory indicates that people live together in society accordance with and agreement that establishes moral and political rules." Thus consent and mutual agreement is one distinctive factor as particular agreements would have been signed and agreed upon when it comes to how users used and interacted with the platform. Freedom of choice, as users of OnlyFans had the choice of what they preferred to upload and also view. Thus an issue of how harmful was the content on the platform in terms of the explicit content.

ii) Virtue Ethics perspective

- The quest to understand and live a life of a moral character. The practical wisdom to determine the right course of action in specific situations. One would be the evaluation and hosting of explicit content, as the content would need to be taken into consideration for the wellbeing and impact on character development of persons viewing the material and uploading. This would also fall in line with intellectual virtues as the reasoning behind the actions of the individuals and opposing or agreeing stakeholders or clients would be shown.

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Question 3

- a) When should death by suicide receive news coverage? Justify your answer.

- Death by suicide should receive news coverage when it serves a significant public interest and can be reported responsibly, following ethical guidelines, more so when the suicide has a broader impact on the community or society, such as highlighting systemic issues related to mental health care, it may warrant news coverage. If the story can raise awareness about mental health issues, healthy coping mechanisms, and the availability of resources, it may be justified. In the case of Hana the person, was a classmate of her, thus effectively addressing the matter would raise a more noticeable issue when it come to mental health and the effect the matter would have on the class.

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b) What steps should be taken to ensure that the story, if punished, minimizes harm to those with suicidal thoughts?

To minimize harm when reporting on death by suicide. Ethical guidelines should be accounted for, especially from organizations that deal with suicide prevention. Such organizations would have informative procedures and guides to aid with the post suicide concerns and effects along with contact information for further aid of affected individuals.

Stating facts of the matter and reduced opinionating of the extract would also aid in reducing the harm that may follow suit as being mindful of the audience demographic would aid in minimizing suicidal thoughts. Administration approval of the content would also improve the information portrayal and potential backlash on the individual standing.

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c) What are the newspaper's responsibilities to its readers when covering death by suicide?

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→ Newspapers responsibilities when covering death by suicide, is to ensure accuracy of the reported incident to avoid unnecessary and baseless rumors and speculations that may follow. A certain amount of discretion is taken into consideration due to the sensitive nature of the topic of suicide, thus being empathetic and being transparent about the matter. Effectively following ethical reporting on the matter, by following guidelines and not sensationalizing the death by suicide and excessively graphic details on the matter. Also additional incentive on mental health and prevention methods in the reports on suicide would educate readers.

d) As a reporter, would you name the student? Why or why not?

→ The decision to name the student should be made with great care and should consider the potential impact on the individual's family and the community. If naming the student is essential for understanding the context and importance of the story, it should be done in a respectful and responsible manner, with the family's consent if possible. However, if naming the student does not significantly enhance the story's impact or understanding, it may be more ethical to withhold the name to protect the privacy and dignity of the deceased and their family. Thus in this instance I would release the name of the student as he was a well known person and a fellow classmate.

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e) Use Kantian ethics to determine what Hana should do. Explain your logic.

→ Utilizing Kantian ethics as a guiding framework, Hana should be mindful of the principle of treating individuals as ends in themselves and upholding their autonomy. In this context, she must consider the autonomy and dignity of the deceased student, the student's family, and the potential impact on individuals with suicidal thoughts. Hana's decision should revolve around the fundamental question of whether reporting on this death respects the autonomy and dignity of those involved or risks harm to vulnerable individuals.

Moreover, Hana's primary ethical responsibility should be to minimize harm to those with suicidal thoughts, a core principle of Kantian ethics. To fulfill this duty, she must conscientiously assess the potential consequences of her reporting on individuals in vulnerable states. Adherence to ethical guidelines that discourage sensationalism and harmful coverage is imperative.

In conclusion, for Hana's decision to be in harmony with Kantian ethics, it should align with the principles of respecting autonomy, minimizing harm, and adhering to ethical guidelines. This entails reporting in a manner that raises awareness about mental health issues, underscores the importance of seeking help, and ensures the autonomy and dignity of all involved are upheld.

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