WORK ETHICS

The dictionary definition of work ethics is "the belief that work has a moral benefit and an inherent ability to strengthen character", but there is so much more to work ethics than that. In addition to the strengthening of morals that work provides, the concept of work ethic includes a moral obligation to work diligently and honestly. It is a vital part of every career and a foundation of the integrity of the entire workforce. In order to maintain a good work ethic, one needs to be dedicated to one's career and be honest at all times. Focusing on improvement is a necessary part of keeping integrity in the workplace. There are ethical challenges, such as the pressure to behave dishonestly or an inclination to not work diligently. Clearly, the reliability of an employee varies greatly from person to person, but it is important for all employees and students to use their own values in order to uphold a strong work ethic.

According to Teri Fonseca, who has been a Compliance Examiner for the Federal Securities and Exchange Commission for the past seven years, work ethics revolve around being honest and maintaining the honesty of others. Since her job gives her access to investors' personal information such as their social security numbers and criminal records, Fonseca is obligated to keep all of that information private and not disclose any of it. If any personal information ends up in the wrong hands, she would be fired. As a result, she has first-hand experience on the importance of having a good work ethic. Ethics are the main part of her career, as it is her responsibility to make sure that investors behave ethically and that both investors and people that advise investors follow federal security laws. Fonseca bases her ethics on a thorough set of laws put in place by the government and makes sure to keep a very professional standing with investment advisors in order to avoid pressure to behave unethically.

Since Fonseca would be fired if she had a bad work ethic, she is forced to maintain her own moral code and work diligently. For her, ethics are a top priority. She represents the federal government, and her work ethics reflect those of the entire government. In addition, other examiners are always around to monitor her. As a result, there is not much that she can do to improve her work ethic that she is not already doing. She attends regular training sessions, so she has constant reminders to always follow the rules that the government put in place. For example, she is required to make sure that she secures her computer and any documents about investors. In summary, Fonseca's work ethics are heavily regulated.

The only experience that Teri Fonseca has with high school students involves interns or students visiting her workplace, so it is difficult for her to determine the overall work ethic of students currently graduating high school. However, she has observed that, even though some students are serious, others tend to be distracted a lot of the time. This could result in a decline in their work ethic, both in school and in any jobs that they may have. According to her, different factors influence a student's work ethic. For example, she attended Catholic school until ninth grade, where everyone was forced to have an excellent sense of integrity. When she switched to public school for high school, it seemed very chaotic as a result. Therefore, high school students have many different levels of ethics, which translate into a large range of work ethics in the workplace.

Sharon Sagan, who has been a research associate for the UCSF (University of California, San Francisco) department of neuroimmunology for five years, also understands the importance of ethical work. In her opinion, there are two different parts to work ethics. One part consists of being motivated and inclined to work, almost as if there is a moral obligation to work hard all of the time. Everyone needs to make an effort to contribute all they can to their job. This includes

one taking time outside of work to improve his or her knowledge and learn new skills in order to be better qualified for his or her job. This means that having a good work ethic requires employees to devote extra time to their jobs. The other part of work ethics is working honestly. Especially in the sciences, there can be pressure to be dishonest. In Sagan's job, people are inclined to use data that they obtain through experiments to reach a certain conclusion. This causes her and her coworkers to sometimes be forced to only present a fraction of their data so that their results match what her boss expects. As a result, some experiments are performed solely to produce a certain answer that is appealing to the companies funding the research. Since this is such a pervasive issue through the scientific community, it is hard to trust some results published in scientific journals. According to Sagan, this provides pressure to match results that might not have been completely correct to begin with. Therefore, as a scientist, it is somewhat easy to work diligently but harder to have good ethics in the workplace.

In her opinion, she has an excellent work ethic in terms of working hard and doing what it takes to get her work done well because she was trained that way and has worked hard her entire life. Her ethics, on the other hand, are harder to maintain. Even when trying to stay as true to her morals as possible, Sagan cannot always be completely honest because her boss expects incorrect data. In order to improve her work ethic, she states that she can stand up to her boss and other negative influences in order to maintain some sort of a moral code regarding her work and remember to be honest. In addition, she says that she can always read more and keep learning to become more prepared to her job. Concerning students graduating high school today, Sagan believes that, as a whole, they are more distracted, resulting in a declining work ethic. Because social media has become a prominent part of this generation, students are less inclined to work hard. Also, society in general has become less moral. A small group of dedicated students, however, work harder than before because it has become more difficult to be accepted into college and be successful.

Finally, Ted Tagami, who has been the CEO of the company Magnitude.io since it was founded three years ago, believes that the foundation of good work ethics is being true to one's self and others and making a moral code and integrity a large part of one's life. Having respect for others allows people to be more inclined to work collaboratively and use teamwork to optimize the quality of their work. In addition, it is important to take ownership of situations in the workplace by setting goals and limits to a project to ensure that it is completed. As always, good ethics come with being a good person by having empathy and respect, as well as being dependable and humble. In order to be a dependable employee, one must focus on continuous improvement; there is always something to be improved.

Tagami is not sure whether he has a good or bad work ethic, but he always tries to follow his vision and be true to everyone. According to him, having a good or bad work ethic is basically the same as being "true or crooked," and he always tries to be true and moral because he dedicates his life to helping others. He says that anyone can improve their work ethics by following and continuously improving on six principles. The most basic of those are being true to one's self, demonstrating integrity in all situations, respecting others, and focusing on the quality of one's work, as stated above. Additionally, taking ownership of situations improves leadership skills, which are a part of work ethics, and focusing on simply being a good person can motivate people to be ethical. From Tagami's experience, the work ethics of students vary immensely depending on the habits that they develop as children. For the most part, students who focus on doing well in school have good work ethics. However, something that most

students can improve is taking initiative in projects. This would allow them to become more responsible and better at project management.

In my opinion, the concept of work ethics is that everyone has a moral obligation to be dedicated to both the quality and honesty of their work. This includes being hardworking and diligent, as well as having motivation to finish projects. Having a good work ethic also means taking responsibility for one's work, which is where ethics come in. This means that one is supposed to be completely honest about one's work and not cheat in any way. I believe that my work ethics are mostly good, but they can be improved. I always endeavor to finish projects and work on time and improve the quality of my work, but I have bad habits, such as doing homework in class and not managing my time well. I can improve my work ethic by not allowing myself to be distracted by social media, focusing more in class, and having a schedule for schoolwork. I think that the work ethic of some students is declining and the work ethic of others is improving, so in general, it is both good and bad for students graduating high school. On one hand, some students are working less because of all the time they spend on social media; on the other, Advanced Placement classes are becoming more difficult and colleges are becoming more competitive, so many students are being forced to have a better work ethic than the generation before them.

Overall, work ethics are comprised of two concepts: hard work and morals, and those two parts are the foundation of our society. Good work ethics are vital to maintaining one's integrity as an employee, but there are different levels of work ethics depending on one's influences or personal choices. For instance, there may be distractions such as social media that decrease productivity or pressure to lie or compromise one's morals. Even though it may be difficult to maintain a good work ethic, there is a lot that one can do to improve it, including respecting others, focusing on quality, and ignoring bad influences. Although some students today might not have the best work ethic, but many understand the importance of work ethics and are striving to be the best they can be.

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