

# EEE 193B/CPE 191

Group 3S

Ethics Proposal

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## **Introduction**

In today's society, ethics is a fundamental basis for establishing both moral safety and regulations for the community of the people. As an engineer we will face a situation where the project will fall upon an ethical stance determined by a group of engineers. In this proposal we are researching a topic that concerns the ethical values an engineer faces in the workforce. One topic that is deemed ethically questionable is the idea of following protocols established by management even if those protocols could be deemed illegal/immoral/unethical by others.

One ethical example that would be the Volkswagen case, in which employees were ordered to follow management protocols whether it opposes to their moral beliefs or not. During the Volkswagen scandal, management gave instructions towards employees to create a program that can alter the emissions of the vehicle during government testing. One set for driving and another set for testing, the value of ethics is then questioned; is it ethical to make a program that subverts the government testing, if instructed or incentivized by management to do so?

Another ethical example that demonstrate following established management protocols would be the Wells Fargo Case. During the Wells Fargo Scandal over 2 million bank accounts were opened without the customer consent by employers. The ethical dilemma falls on the employees that were either forced or incentivized to open account for customers unknowingly. Is it ethical for the employees, who are only following procedures and protocols from management, to practice these possibly illegal/immoral/unethical acts?