

PHIL 210 Assessment: Ethics Committee Responses (45%)

Throughout this course, you will work with a group of your peers, assuming the role of an Ethics Committee. This committee will meet several times throughout this course to discuss issues and then create a summary report. Submit your response to your professor via the Moodle assignment dropdown.

Each report is worth 15%, for a total of 45% of your course grade. You will complete an Ethics Committee Response for Units 1, 4, and 7.

Grading Rubric:

Your group assignment will be marked according to the following criteria:

Criteria	Excellent	Average	Needs improvement
Identification of issues and implications (20 points max)	Excellent explanation of issues and implications. (20 points)	Average explanation of issues and implications. (9 to 19 points)	Inadequate explanation of issues and implications. (0 to 8 points)
Appropriate justification of approach and expected outcome (30 points max)	Choice of appropriate justification of approach and expected outcome. (25 to 30 points)	Some inconsistencies or not all parts of the required answer. (16 to 24 points)	Major issues with the reasoning or explanation of outcome, or no reason given. (0 to 15 points)
Reasonable explanation of opinion and perspectives (20 points max)	Well-written evaluation of opinions. (17 to 20 points)	Limited explanation of own opinion on current issues in managing change. (10 to 16 points)	Minimal or non-existent explanation of own opinion on current issues in managing change. (0 to 9 points)
Sufficient length (10 points max)	Report of more than 500 words. (10 points)	Report is less than 500 words. (6 to 9 points)	Minimal report. (0 to 5 points)
Layout and writing (20 points max)	Accurate grammar and spelling, structured layout. (17 to 20 points)	Some grammar and/or writing issues. (9 to 16 points)	Major writing or spelling issues; layout not appropriate. (0 to 8 points)
			TOTAL

Ethics Committee Questions

Unit 1: (15%)

After completing this unit, including the learning activities, you are asked to analyze the following case. You will work with a group of your peers, assuming the role of an Ethics Committee. This committee will meet throughout this course to discuss issues and create a summary report..

For this first Ethics Committee meeting, you will discuss the following case:

A local manufacturing plant in your community has been accused by a citizens group of dumping waste into a nearby river. When confronted with this issue, the manufacturing company president responded by saying, "We're not dumping that much in and we're not hurting anyone." Others in the community disagree and believe this practice by the manufacturing plant is harming the environment.

In topic 2 of this unit, four steps are set out for working through moral situations like this one. For this Ethics committee report, first figure out what questions you would need to ask the company and what information you would need. Then follow just the first two of the four steps.

- Step 1: identify the precise moral question needing to be resolved, and
- Step 2: state a few possible answers to this question.

Finally, tell which of the answers in step 2 your committee is recommending and why.

As you meet with your Ethics Committee this week, discuss the case above and take notes as a group. In your response, work with key terms and concepts from your readings. *(eg. If I was aI would say...about this case.)*

Submit your report on Moodle by the end of the week.

Unit 4: (15%)

After completing this unit, including the learning activities, you are asked to meet with your Ethics Committee and discuss the following:

For the following ethical theories, Justice as fairness, the categorical imperative, and utilitarianism, explain the answer you think an advocate of each position would give to the following question:

Should the government provide housing and a food allowance for homeless people?

As you meet with your Ethics Committee this week, discuss the question and provide some of the key reasoning you think each perspective would use in coming to what they believe to be a just solution. In other words, the utilitarian would point out. . . and say. . ., etc.

In your response, work with key terms and concepts from your readings. *(eg. If I was aI would say...about this case.)*

Submit your report on Moodle by the end of the week.

Unit 7: (15%)

After completing this unit, including the learning activities, you are asked to meet with your Ethics Committee and create a response to the following:

A strongly worded editorial has just appeared in a local newspaper accusing the community zoo, and all zoos, of violating the rights of animals. Among other things, the author of the article pointedly asked, "How would we like it if we were the ones being confined in this way? It's not natural for humans and it's not for animals either."

A group is now lobbying the city council to shut down the zoo and the council has turned to your ethics committee for a recommendation.

Your task is to write a brief report in which you do the following things:

- Define the concept of a right.
- State whether or not animals have rights. Tell why you answer as you do.
- If animals do have rights, does the practice of keeping them in zoos violate their rights. Again, give a reason for your answer.

Submit your report on Moodle by the end of the week.