

Theodore Davis

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Ethics Essay

When I think of ethics I'm always reminded of little ol' first grade Theodore. First grade Theodore was terrible at spelling and hated learning to even more. First grade Theodore wrote down all the words for the spelling test on his desk – in crayon – and hid them with a sheet of paper. After the test was over he got caught, why? Because his desk mate cold heartedly turned him. First grade Theodore spent that whole day's recess cleaning all the desks and was grounded at home.

What does this story have to do with me you ask? I was the dastardly cheater! That day still haunts me. Some might say cheating on a spelling test in first grade isn't a big deal but I learned a big lesson that day. That was to be honest and forth right. This goes along with the code of ethics where you need to keep everyone's wellbeing in mind. The code of ethics is just a formal way to keep what we know we should be doing in the front of our minds. If there was no code of ethics I don't think the engineering community would collapse but I think that it exists to help us better our peers and ourselves. As well as making sure that everyone involved knows what's expected of them in the professional setting.

When I think about what's expected of me when I'm working. I think about how an affected individual might feel from my actions. I try to go with my gut instincts are on what's right. In class we discussed the Pinto issue. I found it hard to believe that they would continue manufacturing after it failed a safety standard test. Not only was it just a small group of people allowing the pinto to make it to production, it was the whole company chain! I think a company's ethical obligation would be to keep public safety their highest priority. The issue went on to show how it was cheaper for Ford not improve the safety of the pinto but rather let people die. I think this is wrong. Ford has an image to maintain to keep public trust, however, they became the first American corporation to be prosecuted on criminal charges. If they had made the \$11 changes they could have made of for that deficit by being a name more synonymous with safety. One of the other issues that was discussed in class was the Amazon Echo Issue. While we were discussing it we kept circling back around to personal data rights. We were all wary about how easily anyone would be able to get access to our recordings that amazon keeps. I was more worried about the out of the box privacy policy agreement that you agree to buy using the echo. Where they were more concerned about how the data was used and stored.

To wrap thing up, when I look at the Virtue of Ethics the three virtues that stand out the most to me are: Honesty, Charity, and Responsibility. Out of those three I think honesty is the one I align with the most, going back to my story, it's the one I learned the earliest. With charity I've always enjoyed helping others, I've actively thought about being a teacher and I think that profession embodies charity. Finally responsibility, I always liked being the one people could depend on to get the job done. This also just goes back hand in hand with honesty. This is why I think ethics is such an important part in our society.