Anja Sheppard

Office Ethics Homework: Essay on Scenario

The RED company is in a really tough spot against their competitor, BLUE. My boss, Bob, is pushing me and my team to work really hard to meet a deadline. Unfortunately, this deadline can’t be changed. My team has been falling behind, and it might be due to my lack of enforcing productive environments, or it could be external factors. I want to come up with a solution to the problem that doesn’t involve the assignment being incomplete. I must evaluate my mistakes, my team’s mistakes, and how to approach the boss.

This deadline, along with the other two groups doing well, has gotten me really stressed. I may have been so preoccupied with finishing and polishing my own work, that I haven’t noticed how off-task and distracted my team is. I should be providing more support as they go through some tough times. I do have some experience in all of the fields, but should I sacrifice all of my sleep and extra time to try to also do my teammates’ work? I may just do that, but should I get discomfort for something that isn’t my job? Is that what a friend should do? Should I just tell Bob that I can’t meet the deadline without more people on the job? Is it my fault that my team is not doing well?

My team is going through some really hard times. Troy, my main HTML and CPP guy is low on money. I recently found out that his productivity has decreased due to his “moonlighting.” I can’t afford to reprimand him all the time for his decreasing work effort. Susan has been helping him out a little, even though PHP is her main language. She is also balancing 60 hours of work with a husband and kids. I’ll feel bad if I push more onto her. Andy, a graphics dude, is going through a divorce. He has also been distracted, but he has promised that it’ll be over in a month. Shanetta is a brilliant young graphics designer, but a little push could make her leave the company. My teammates are my friends, and I would feel bad for ratting out all of their problems to Bob. Just because they are having a little trouble for a while, doesn’t mean that they will always be like that, right? I don’t want to strain my friendships. I really should just ask for more people on the job, even if it’s embarrassing.

I think that if I tell Bob all of this, and I ask for more people to help, he might get angry that I am failing to complete a major project for this year. Asking early would probably be the best way to go, so he has time to collect his thoughts and get help. How do I approach the man that employs me with a failure? How will this look to the other team leaders?

I approached Bob in a face-to-face meeting. I believe he was having a good day, which had helped my cause a bit. He was a bit angry and disappointed that I couldn’t meet my deadline, but he was also very understanding about my teammates and their various problems away from work. I was very apologetic and I promised more next time. A couple of lower-down employees in RED with some extra time came to help out Troy and Andy. I have worked harder than ever before, and we successfully met our deadline with everyone’s help. We also won the grant, which has helped out our company a lot. I’m glad I decided to be straight with Bob, even if it was a bit scary. I know that if I had waited, the consequences would have ended up in a loss of the grant or worse.