Values in action

Model Answer

Review the information provided in the Additional Resources section and make sure you read about each of the focus areas that demonstrate our values in action:

- Innovation
- Diversity & Inclusion
- Corporate Social Responsibility
- Artificial Intelligence
- Trustworthy Computing

At Microsoft, there are many stories that demonstrate our values in action.
This model answer is an example of how an individual may have answered the question in this task. There is no correct model answer. Instead, consider how each story demonstrates one of Microsoft Values and why it resonates as a good example. Then critically review your own answers – did the story you choose capture the essence of the value correctly? Did you just select the first story, or did you read a few to see which one resonated the most with you? Why did you choose the story you did – what appealed to you most about the content? Were you surprised by any of the stories you read? What did you learn about Microsoft from these stories?

Innovation

The link to the story is:

https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/research/blog/how-research-can-enable-moreeffective-remote-work/?OCID=msr_blog_remote_hero

This is how the story demonstrated the value in action:
I found all the different examples in this article about the ways that Microsoft are helping the challenge of home working to be fascinating – especially given how important this has been recently. There are many examples of innovation throughout, but the one that really stood out and resonated with me was the 'accelerated instant replay (AIR)'. This is a great example of innovation at a time where it is really needed and is adding real value to a real problem many people are currently being faced with.

Diversity & Inclusion

The link to the story is:

https://news.microsoft.com/life/magnet-for-change-an-engineering-job-track-forwomen-by-women/

This is how the story demonstrated the value in action:
This was a very powerful story about the origin and work of Kal Academy. I'd never thought about women needing more women as role models to gain confidence within engineering. This pro-active approach ensures engineering is more widely accessible for women, especially regardless of their background and financial status. More women are needed in STEM subjects to ensure it creates a diverse and equal workforce. I think this is an excellent example to highlight the importance and impact of Diversity and Inclusion and the support and encouragement Microsoft provided.

Corporate Social Responsibility

The link to the story is:

https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/corporate-responsibility/airband

This is how the story demonstrated the value in action:
It was very hard identify just one specific 'story' from this section, as there are so many examples of amazing initiatives that are being done to 'give back' to communities. I think the one that touched me the most was the 'closing the global divide' story – I found the video so powerful and humbling to watch. It really brought helped me to see the actual difference technology can have for someone – how it genuinely impacts their whole life (family and work). This is one of many amazing stories that brought Corporate Social Responsibility to life for me.

Artificial Intelligence

The link to the story is:

https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/research/blog/training-deep-control-policies-forthe-real-world/?OCID=msr_blog_controlreal_ai

This is how the story demonstrated the value in action:
To understand how AI is being used to more closely map the way that the human brain interprets processes is amazing. The way that it can help 'search and rescue' to find people and items more quickly is such a great example of the benefits of AI and shows the advances in this technology. It was interesting to read how this progressed and how it has been used for 'out of the box' thinking from the way drones were initially being used. It was interesting to read how they approached this by dividing the problem into two tasks and the challenges they had to consider. This is such a powerful example of bringing this value to life and really seeing it in action.

Trustworthy Computing

The link to the story is:

 https://blogs.microsoft.com/on-the-issues/2020/04/13/tech-for-social-impact-covid19-azure/

This is how the story demonstrated the value in action:

Firstly, the quote on the top of the overall page really struck me – "If we can't protect people, then we don't deserve their trust". I found this a powerful statement to start with before I even started reading the stories. It really summarized the value. I chose the story relating to 'More tech and cloud support for non-profits on the frontline of COVID-19' as it resonated with me. It was humbling to read that Microsoft are committing $35 million to help during this time, so that resources are freed up for other important work for frontline workers in the non-profit sector. I found this very inspiring and really shows that the values are very much in action everywhere.