

The purpose of having a code of ethics in any setting is to make sure that everyone involved in a process knows what is expected of them professionally to ensure everyone is practicing honest and professional methods. A code of ethics sets a standard for what morals should be followed and what is considered wrong in the eyes of others. In my own life, I make decisions in ethical situations by aiming to always put others first. This one rule I have is the easiest way for me to make sure I am always following the ethics which are expected of engineers, and of people in general. As long as I put others first, it is hard for me to also be greedy or have my priorities wrong.

One of the ethical issues we discussed in class involved the Ford Motor Company and the production of the Pinto. In this specific instance, Ford was known to have placed the priority of making profit over the priority of keeping passengers safe and designing a car which was safe enough to sell. They valued the money they would save from poor engineering and time savings over the safety of passengers who would ultimately be injured by a poor, rushed design. For the most part, my classmates and I all agreed on what was ethical and what ethics were ignored in each story.

Out of the six virtues, integrity, honesty, fidelity, charity, responsibility, and self-discipline, I believe the three most important in our case study are honesty, integrity, and responsibility. If the company would have been honest, they would have been open about the safety issues with the car, meaning it would not have been allowed to be released. Integrity also goes along with honesty. If they had integrity in the decisions they made, they most likely would not have put the value of profit over that of passenger safety. Finally, responsibility. If the engineers had been responsible about the decisions they made, they would have never

released a car which they knew would put passengers in danger and would have taken responsibility in redesigning the car to make it safer. I think there are many other virtues which could apply, but ultimately they all relate to having ethical priorities, one of the five “P”s. I chose these three because they all have to do with putting the priority of others ahead of yourself, and I also believe that they apply in most situations.

A code of ethics is a valuable thing for anyone to follow if they wish to be successful and well regarded. A good code of ethics also means that you will have the best interest in mind when making decisions that will affect others.