

Ethics is an important part of the Engineering profession. The purpose of having a Code of Ethics and following it, is so that the Engineer could look at him/herself in the mirror the next day without feeling guilty about what he/she has done. It also helps people have faith in the profession.

To follow the Code of Ethics, I usually ask myself, "If my action was printed in tomorrow's paper, would I be proud of it?" If I wouldn't be proud of that action, then I won't do it. In my group session, we discussed ethics, particularly the Volvo case. Volvo is known for breaking The Code of Ethics. They lied about how much emissions their cars produced to their customers and regulators. My ethical considerations were basically, "When you have to make money, you have to do whatever is necessary sometimes". The rest of the group convinced me that there are times when money is not an important factor, especially when you are dealing with people's lives. The whole group agreed that the most ethical decision was to take their product off the line until it was able to meet the specifications.

The three virtues that I picked were Integrity, Honesty, and Responsibility. I chose these three because I think that they are the most important virtues that every Engineer should have. These 3 virtues are relevant to our case study because Volvo lacked these properties by failing to handle the fact that their cars did not meet specifications. They were not honest with their customers, and they did not take responsibility for their actions until the lawsuits started pouring in. They definitely did not have integrity because they willingly chose to mislead their customers and regulators about the capabilities of their cars. The other virtues are less relevant because they are kind of related to the virtues that I listed. The list is redundant. Most of the list can be traced back to Integrity, Honesty, or Responsibility. I do think that list of the virtues is comprehensive and no more virtues need to be added to it.

Ethics is an important part of the engineering profession. Following these codes helps make the world a better place, because people are able to trust that engineers will do what is best for the people and not make decisions based solely on profit. These codes also help the engineer sleep better at night because he/she knows that he/she made the right decision.