Essay 4

Topic 2

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Engineering ethics, act as the rule in the engineering behavior, is used to guide what engineer should do and what engineer should not do. In my opinion, engineering ethics should be equal, acceptable for everyone, without any bias to any specific field and it serves for the moral standard. Commonly speaking, ethics regulate most people’s daily life. A good ethics or good religion can bring harmony to the society. Same as engineering ethics. A good example can change the field and make sure it won’t bring any negative effect to public.

Engineering ethics serves to protect lives and safety, which is why it’s strongly recommended to apply to each engineers. On Jan 28, 1986, a disaster happened. A space shuttle exploded during the launch process, killing seven astronauts on board because the O-ring failed to work. If the shuttle engineers gave some serious examination and run some simulation, just as what the ethics has always told, put safety on the first place, then it might not be a tragic like this.

Engineering ethics also serves to set standard to the field and prevent unfair competition. The Volkswagen scandal is a great example. Because of a little change in the ECU unit in the car, the company’s product can pass the emission test while score better performance number on paper than its competitor. This act disobeys the engineering ethics as engineer should aim to build a better planet together instead of use unfair skill to give employer advantage in the competition.

What if there is no such thing as engineering ethics? The consequence is that there will be a chaos for public and companies will be dragged into unfair competition. Company can produce any product they want even though they have the potential to hurt people and lives. Sure it will a paradise for those who are crazy inventing things, but it might bring more negative effect to the society as there is no rule to regulate them.

Why does it need to be taught as professional ethics instead of organization ethics? First of all, this ethics should be able to be used on various stage and focus everyone on the same goal. So it should be formulated by profession personnel. What’s most important is, there shouldn’t contain any bias in the ethics as all personnel should stand on neutral ground. One problem might appear is that corporation companies can use money to buy off personnel and modify the ethics so it can turn into advantage for the company. Solution to this possible situation is to make every modification to the ethics transparent and to make the process monitored by public. Secondly, this ethics needs to be constantly edited and get improved as the society changes. As time advance, new technology will storm to life and bring changes to people. If the ethics failed to keep up with modem technology, there will be holes of regulation and certain people might take advantage for their own interest. So having a professional ethics setup will definitely be good for society.