

Chapter 15

Ethics

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. Why is it essential that engineers act in an ethical manner?
2. How does engineering ethics differ from other areas of professional ethics (law, medicine, business)?
3. What (specific) ethical issues have you encountered in the workplace?
4. Consider the quote that begins the chapter: “.... *I was a German engineer... and I saw it as my duty to apply my specialist knowledge in this way in order to help Germany win the war. Just as an aircraft construction engineer builds airplanes in wartime, which are also connected with the destruction of human beings.*” Evaluate this engineer’s statement.
5. Consider “The Day America Told the Truth.” What amount would have to be offered to you to entice you to steal/release the answers to a university Calculus exam? \$1,000? \$10,000? \$1,000,000? Or...?
6. Consider *The Incident at Morales* summary. When was the last time you compromised your ethical standards? How? What was the result?
7. What does the phrase “hold paramount” (Code of Ethics) suggest to you?
8. Consider that we should “avoid conflicts of interest.” When was the last time you encountered a conflict of interest? How did you handle it?
9. Which of the approaches to undefined ethical issues seems most applicable to you? Why?