

Ethical Decision Making and How to Solve Problems

Use this document to create your assignment. It will help. Follow the steps.

‘Ethical decision making’ expects you to put your ethical values at the heart of the process of arriving at a conclusion.

Step 1: Establish your values.

What are values? In this case, value is not referring to monetary worth, but to what you consider important or deserving in life. Below is a list of values. Consider the list. Work out what top 4 values do you hold to - aspects you think are important in life.

For example, if you think that independence is the most important value required for social life, that would be one of your main values. Alternatively, you may think security is more important than independence, and so that could sit in your top 4 values.

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|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| • Achievement | • Fast-paced work | • Pleasure |
| • Advancement and promotion | • Financial gain | • Power and authority |
| • Adventure | • Freedom | • Privacy |
| • Arts | • Friendships | • Public service |
| • Autonomy | • Having a family | • Recognition |
| • Challenge | • Health | • Relationships |
| • Change and variety | • Helping other people | • Religion |
| • Community | • Honesty | • Reputation |
| • Compassion | • Independence | • Security |
| • Competence | • Influencing others | • Self-respect |
| • Competition | • Inner harmony | • Serenity |
| • Cooperation | • Integrity | • Sophistication |
| • Creativity | • Intellectual status | • Spirituality |
| • Decisiveness | • Leadership | • Stability |
| • Democracy | • Location | • Status |
| • Economic security | • Love | • Time away from work |
| • Environmental stewardship | • Loyalty | • Trust |
| • Effectiveness | • Meaningful work | • Truth |
| • Efficiency | • Money | • Volunteering |
| • Ethical living | • Nature | • Wealth |
| • Excellence | • Openness and honesty | • Wisdom |
| • Expertise | • Order (tranquility/stability) | • Work quality |
| • Fame | • Peace | • Work under pressure |
| • Fast living | • Personal development/ learning | • Other: _____ |

Take some time and look through the possibilities. Think carefully about which represent you the best. These should be values you live by. Having established your top 4 values - write them at the top of a clean page, ready to be used in the problem-solving process.

Step 2: Research Circumcision from a Global Perspective

Use the readings online to support your learning. Do not rely on Wiki for anything other than a stepping stone to reliable academic sources. Use the library database not Google.

Step3: Arrive at a Conclusion

Now that you have a more rounded position on what circumcision is and how it is used and understood around the world, use the following series of steps to walk through the information and arrive at a conclusion. (Note: Your assignment presentation should provide an overview of the steps you took when researching this ethical dilemma and how you reached your conclusion as to whether circumcision should be made illegal worldwide.)

1. **Define the situation and concern** - describe the problem in a clear, focused sentence (or 2).
2. **Think about whether it is or isn't a problem** - deeply reflect on the issue at hand. Make sure you consider a raft of perspectives. (i.e.: Ask yourself if this practice is a global or local concern, if it raises humanitarian issues that can be enforced globally. Ask yourself if you consider it a problem in all situations and, therefore, if it does need to be fixed? What will fixing it DO to the world, to everyday lives? How does this problem link to other corollaries? Will altering cultural practices cause further issues or solve other concerns?)
3. **What has caused the problem?** What is the root cause - does the root need addressing?
You can use Fishbone diagrams to collate and structure the info you've found.
4. **What is needed to solve or address the problem?** - Technical skills? Education? Knowledge? Practitioners? Policy? Are there multiple solutions? Should this anticipate nuanced or localised outcomes?
5. **Select one solution *that chimes with your values*** - outline your conclusion and explain why you have gone for this option over any others. Draw in your values to show why you have taken

this route. Depending on your conclusion you might need to think about roll out, cost, time frame, milestones, anticipate actions necessary prior and during to implementation, and emergent issues.

6. **Evaluate the process.** What obstacles made this process problematic? What was missing, if anything?

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