

STUDENT GUIDELINES for the ETHICS FORUM

Friday, June 23, 2006 9:00am – 1:30pm

University of Pittsburgh

Selection of topic

- Students should divide into groups (with 4 to 6 students in each group) and select an ethical issue related to science and/or research. Students may also elect to present a case study. To facilitate the selection, please see the list of possible ethical topics to consider. You are free to choose topics that are not on this list. Each group should also have a faculty mentor/advisor.
- Each group may select up to three topics. In order to minimize duplication, please complete the Topic Selection Form to submit your group's choice of topics to the OEL office no later than Friday, June 9, 2006. Please also include the name of your group's faculty mentor.
- You will receive confirmation of your topic by Monday, June 12, 2006.

Preparation

Students in each group should meet together with their faculty mentor to decide how to research and prepare for the presentation. Preparation of your topic should be shared among members of the group.

The following questions can be used as an outline to analyze the ethical issue. You are free to develop your own questions and outline.

1. What are the relevant facts?
2. What are the ethical issues?
3. What are the extenuating causes, pressure or environment contributing to the ethical dilemma?
4. Who are the primary stakeholders?
5. What are the possible alternatives?
6. What are the ethics of the alternatives?
7. What are the practical constraints?
8. What actions should be taken?

Discussion

In order to encourage discussion following your presentation, here are some suggestions of questions to pose to your audience. Pose the question prior to giving your presentation. Following your presentation, return to the question for discussion.

1. Pose a point of view question at the start of your talk and poll the audience. Then following your presentation, poll the audience again. Did anyone change their viewpoint and if so, what information or questions from the presentation caused them to change their point of view? If their point of view did not change, what information gave support to their opinion related to the topic?
2. Divide the participants in the room into two or three groups. To each group, assign a different position on the topic. After your presentation, ask each group to indicate what information in the presentation gave the best support for their position or raised the most questions about the validity of that position.
3. Ask these questions of your audience: How as a scientist would you facilitate public discussion and understanding on this issue? What, as a scientist, do you do to help your congressional representative or senator to have a better grasp of this issue?

Presentations at the Ethics Forum (9:45 AM - 11:45 AM)

Approximately 25 - 30 groups will be presenting this year. There will be four groups in eight to ten different breakout sessions. Each group will present one topic and will then be the audience for three other presentations. (You will receive an Ethics Forum Schedule with room assignments at the registration for the Ethics Forum on Friday, June 23.)

Participating are students in the Undergraduate Research Programs at Duquesne University, the Pittsburgh Tissue & Engineering Initiative and the University of Pittsburgh.

Format for presentations

Each group has 20 minutes to present their topic. There will be an additional ten minutes provided for discussion and questions. While all group members should share the responsibility of preparing the presentation, it is up to the members to decide who will actually present as well as how the topic will be presented.

Groups are not required to use PowerPoint for their presentations, but may do so if they choose. Presentations should be in Microsoft PowerPoint format and saved on a USB memory stick.