Ethical Problem-Solving

1. Identify the problem.
2. List all facts that affect your decision.
3. Identify people who would be affected by your decision.
4. Identify what each person would want you to do.
5. List at least three pros and cons for each option.
6. Choose the best, most ethical option.

Activity 1
What Would you Do?

Follow the directions for each step to make the best decision in resolving the ethical problem.

Your teacher gave you a take-home test that you were supposed to finish over the weekend. You spent the weekend at your friend’s house and forgot about the test. When you get to class on Monday, you realize that you didn’t finish your test. The person who sits in front of you has lost their test, but you find it under your chair. You know that you can erase their name, write yours on the test, and turn it in—and no one will know what you’ve done.

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2. List all facts that affect your decision.

3. Identify people who would be affected by your decision.

4. Identify what each person would want you to do.

5. List at least three pros and cons for each option.

6. Choose the best, most ethical option.
Activity 2
Ethics Journal

Use the spaces below to journal your thoughts about each question. Explain why you chose your answer.

1. Is it ethical to cheat on a test or homework?

2. Is it ethical to tell your teacher if you know one of your friends cheated on a test?

3. Is it ethical to brainstorm ideas for a research paper with your friends?

4. Is it ethical to study for a test with a group of your friends?

5. Is it ethical to copy and paste paragraphs from an encyclopedia in your research paper, as long as you properly cite your source?

6. Can you come up with some additional questions as a group or individual?