



Unit: Understanding Leadership

Skill 5: Exploring Real World Ethics and Values

Activity A: From the Headlines

Activity Skills:

Group work,
communication.

Leadership Skills:

Understanding real-world
ethics, understanding
accountability.

Suggested Level:

Beginning

Time:

25-35 minutes

Supplies needed:

- Enough newspapers, magazines and internet articles etc. for your full group.

Do Ahead:

Pick out numerous newspapers, magazines and internet sources that feature stories of corruption, greed, and abuse of power.

Source:

Developed by:
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BACKGROUND:

With leadership comes a heightened level of responsibility and accountability. However, we constantly see examples in the news of people who abuse positions of leadership. In this activity your participants will explore the following:

- Recent examples of unethical behavior
- Accountability
- What it means to stick to core principles

WHAT TO DO:

Introduce the topic of this activity as described above and break participants in to groups of 3-5 people.

Give each group a stack of newspapers, magazines or internet articles and ask each group to scan the headlines for examples people abusing positions of power or influence.

Instruct the groups to take note of the following:

- Who was involved?
- What did the person do?
- What are the potential consequences?

TALK IT OVER:

Reflect:

- What are some of the examples you found of unethical behavior?
- What might be the consequences for the individuals involved?
- Do you think the person (or people) did anything wrong?

Apply:

- Why do you think people sometimes make unethical decisions?
- Do you think it is hard to make a choice between doing something right and doing something wrong?
- What keeps everyone who is in a position of power from abusing their privileges?

BEYOND THE BOX:

Optional Homework:

Option 1: Choose one of the articles you looked at and analyze the situation in greater detail. What example did you choose? Why do you think the person (or people) did what they did? How do you think the

Unit: Understanding Leadership
Skill 11: Defining Leadership

Activity 2: From the Headlines

<p>Notes:</p>	<p>person (or people's) actions affected others around them? What do you think you would have done if you were in this person's shoes?</p> <p>Option 2: Think about a time when you were faced with a decision between something that was wrong and something that was right. What did you do? Is it sometimes difficult to choose the ethical path? Why?</p> <p>Resources And Web Links:</p>
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