

## Preparation for G180 – Checking your ethical pulse

There are times in life when we encounter a situation where we feel compelled to act. What is it that compels us to act then and not at other times? Certainly not everyone would act in the same manner given the same circumstances. Usually there are three courses of action one can take when encountering a moral or ethical situation. The first is to do nothing, the second is to do something by seeking an authority, and the third is to take the situation on. Here are some questions to get you thinking about your ethical pulse.

1. Do you remember a time when you felt compelled to act to protect someone else's interest? Describe why you felt compelled to act and how you felt when you did.
2. Do you remember a time when you encountered something that was not right to you and yet you did not act? Describe why you didn't act and how you felt afterward when thinking about it.
3. Sometimes there are consequences associated with acting on our moral or ethical beliefs. Can you think of something that you would be willing to go to jail for because you felt you needed to take a stand?
4. We are often witnesses of little injustices as we go through our daily lives. At what point do these little injustices require us to act? For instance, an acquaintance of yours might tell a joke that is a little racist or sexist. How bad does it have to be before you tell them that kind of joke makes you uncomfortable?
5. Where did you get your ethical threshold set? For example, did your parents demonstrate it for you, not just in their words but in their actions, or was it from some other influence in your life?