

A bRight Idea

Codes of conduct will greet me in the workplace. If I practice and prepare, I can successfully comply.

Guiding Question One:

If you acquired the necessary education and/or training for an occupation of your choice, and then got a job in that field, what would make you value that job?

Use a copy of the most current *Student Career Guide or Occupational Outlook Handbook* and fill in the blanks on the career data handout. (Handout 5A) Students may also add other options to the list in the blank rows. **Circle any pre-printed values that would be supported by pursuing these occupations.**

Values Possibilities:

Approval	Creativity	Recognition
Authority	Environment	Routine
Benefits	Fame	Satisfaction
Building Future	Flexibility	Security
Continued Learning	Helping Others	Social Contacts
Convenience	Money	Travel

Guiding Question Two:

What if you were hit with ZERO?

One day when you arrived at work you were ...

- escorted to your desk just long enough to put your personal belongings in a sack
- required to turn in your keys
- delivered to the sidewalk outside with instructions never to enter the building again

The ZERO that might cause this dramatic event is Zero Tolerance for employees who violate a code of ethical conduct. This code might be a set of guidelines that address behaviors for any person who is trained in a particular field. The code probably also includes more detailed rules and expectations for a specific company or workplace.

Guiding Question Three:

What might you expect to see in a Code of Ethical Conduct?

A lot. Some codes fill many pages with hundreds of items. Three categories help organize the intent of many of the guidelines.

(Handout 5B)

Competence

Professionals keep up with the latest knowledge in their fields by reading professional journals, attending conferences, and taking refresher courses as needed. In addition, professionals perform services only in their areas of competence. They make sure all their work meets the highest possible standards of quality.

Responsibility

Professionals are loyal to their clients or employers. They do not disclose confidential information concerning a project, even if they leave a client or firm's employment. Professionals are also honest: if a project seems likely to fail, they say so. They turn down work if accepting it would place them in a conflict of interest.

Integrity

Professionals express opinions only when they are based on fact. They are impartial in their judgment and do not change their judgment in response to external pressure.

(Pfaffenberger, 2002, 522)

Guiding Question 4:

How do the principles in the Software Engineering Code of Ethics and Professional Practice© fall into the three categories?

<http://www.computer.org/tab/seprof/code.htm> (1/12/04)

Give each student a copy of the six-page full version of this code (Version 5.2). As we review some of the specific principles from that code, students should put a circle around the correct figure(s) on the category handout. (Suggested items are listed below. Use more or less as time allows.)

<i>Principle</i>	COMPETENCE	RESPONSIBILITY	INTEGRITY
1.06			X
1.07		X	
1.08		X	
2.02			X

2.05		X	
2.08		X	
3.01	X		
3.04	X		
3.13			X
4.04			X
6.03	X		
6.05		X	
7.03			X
7.08	X		
8.03	X		

Guiding Question 5:

If you are diligent about applying the principles of a code of ethics similar to this one—even if you are at school instead of work—what does that say about you? Is that the correct message?

- It says that you value your opportunities. At times, your opportunities may require personal sacrifice.
- It says that you are able to look beyond yourself, and that you support the rights and needs of others.
- It says that you can be trusted with even more and greater privileges and opportunities in the future.

Final Summary:

I am a citizen of the Technology Community. I am responsible for what I need to know, and accountable for what I choose to do.”

Living out my values can make a difference in the world. The difference can be positive or negative, depending on what values I choose to live by.

The future is hopeful. I can become a stable, secure adult who can express and share moral values and ethical principles.

I choose my behavior. I make the best choices when I deliberate about important factors.

Codes of conduct will greet me in the workplace. If I practice and prepare, I can successfully comply.

My ethics define me in all settings. I want to surround myself with people that I can trust as highly as they can trust me.

RESOURCES

Pfaffenberger, Bryan. *Computers in Your Future*. New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 2002.