



The Eight Key Questions Decision-Making Strategy

A note of clarification on the purpose of the 8KQ

The 8KQ are not intended to be “ethics light”

The 8KQ are intended as invitations for us to become curious about the world and our experience of it along the moral dimension

They serve to awaken, alert, and to call to mind what might be at stake in a situation



Moving from REFLEX to REFLECT

**How do we
effectively improve
decision-making?**





The MAGIC of asking a question





**WHERE'S
WALDO?**



Let's try it...

Say you wanted to buy a car



Question Reminder Strategies

Checklists save lives, get stories, and help us do our jobs well



APGAR Score

	Score of 0	Score of 1	Score of 2	Component of Backronym
Skin Color	blue or pale all over	blue at extremities	pink extremities	A ppearance
Pulse Rate	absent	< 100 beats per minute	> 100 beats per minute	P ulse
Reflex Irritability Grimace	no response to stimulation	grimace on suction or aggressive stimulation	cry on stimulation	G rimace
Activity	none	some flexion	flexed arms and legs that resist extension	A ctivity
Respiratory Effort	absent	weak, irregular	strong, robust cry	R espiration



Surgical Safety Checklist

World Health Organization | Patient Safety

At World Health Organization Member States

Before induction of anaesthesia (with at least nurse and anaesthetist)

- Has the patient confirmed his/her identity, site, procedure, and consent?
 - ☐ Yes
- Is the site marked?
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ Not applicable
- Is the anaesthesia machine and medication check complete?
 - ☐ Yes
- Is the pulse oximeter on the patient and functioning?
 - ☐ Yes
- Does the patient have a:
 - Known allergy?
 - ☐ No
 - ☐ Yes
 - Difficult airway or aspiration risk?
 - ☐ No
 - ☐ Yes, and equipment/assistance available
 - Risk of >500ml blood loss (7ml/kg in children)?
 - ☐ No
 - ☐ Yes, and two 100ml central access and fluids planned

Before skin incision (with nurse, anaesthetist and surgeon)

- Confirm all team members have introduced themselves by name and role.
 - ☐ Confirm the patient's name, procedure, and where the incision will be made.
- Has antibiotic prophylaxis been given within the last 60 minutes?
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ Not applicable
- Anticipated Critical Events**
 - To Surgeon:
 - What are the critical or non-routine steps?
 - How long will the case take?
 - What is the anticipated blood loss?
 - To Anaesthetist:
 - Are there any patient specific concerns?
 - To Nursing Team:
 - Has sterility (including indicator results) been confirmed?
 - Are there equipment issues or any concerns?
- Is essential imaging displayed?
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ Not applicable

Before patient leaves operating room (with nurse, anaesthetist and surgeon)

Nurse Verbally Confirms:

- ☐ The name of the procedure
- ☐ Completion of instrument, sponge and needle counts
- ☐ Specimen labelling (read specimen labels aloud, including patient name)
- ☐ Whether there are any equipment problems to be addressed

To Surgeon, Anaesthetist and Nurse:

- ☐ What are the key concerns for recovery and management of this patient?

This checklist is not intended to be comprehensive. Additions and modifications to fit local practice are encouraged.

Revised 1 / 2019 © WHO, 2009

Intellectual Technologies

FORCLEAR

Ethical Reasoning in Action

JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY

Learn more at jmu.edu/ethicalreasoning
or email us at ethicalreasoning@jmu.edu



The Eight Key Questions

What key questions should I (we) use to evaluate the ethical dimensions of a situation?

Fairness	How can I (we) act justly, equitably, balancing interests?
Outcomes	What possible actions achieve the best short- and long-term outcomes?
Responsibilities	What duties and/or obligations apply?
Character	What actions help me (us) become my (our) ideal?
Liberty	How do I (we) show respect for personal freedom, autonomy, consent?
Empathy	How would I (we) act if I (we) cared about all involved?
Authority	What do legitimate authorities (e.g. experts, laws, god/s) expect?
Rights	What rights, if any (e.g., innate, legal, social) apply?

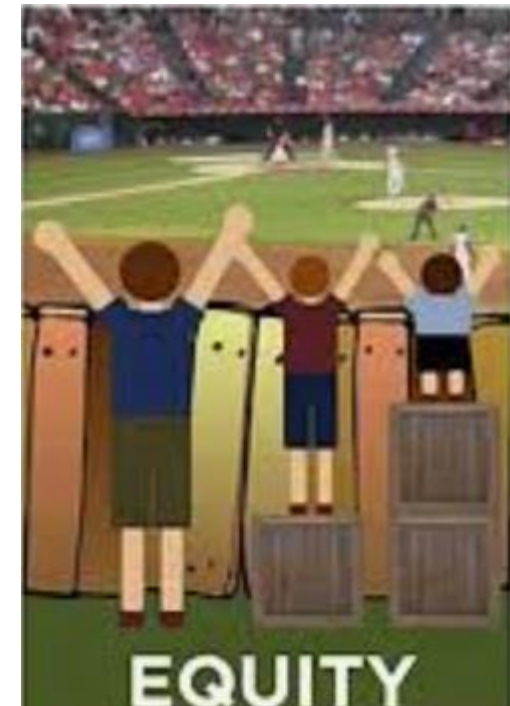
Use the "FORCLEAR" acronym to help you remember all 8KQ.

Learn more at jmu.edu/ethicalreasoning

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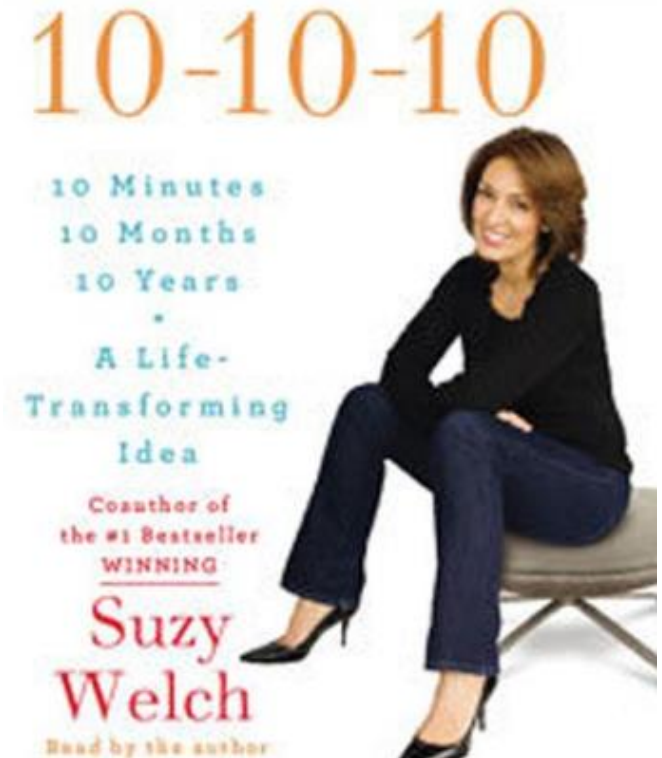
Fairness

What action is most responsive to considerations of equality, equity, or a balance of legitimate interests and needs?



Outcomes

What achieves the best short-term and long-term outcomes for me and all others?



Responsibilities

What duties and obligations apply?

Duties = “Due” to
ALL HUMANS



Obligations = “I
OBLIGE” myself



Character

What action best reflects who I am and the person I want to become? who we are and what we aspire to be?



Liberty

How do I (we) best **respect** the freedom, autonomy, dignity, of others? Listen to their voices, respect their choices, and gain their informed consent when needed?



Empathy

What action cares for all involved?
What is it like to walk in their shoes?

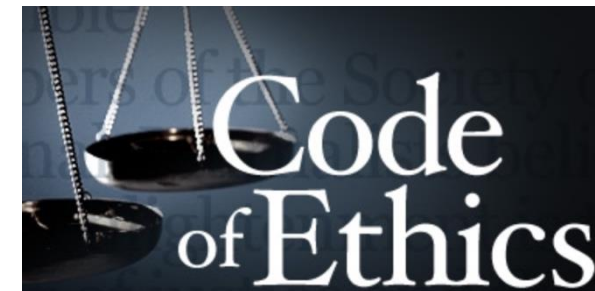
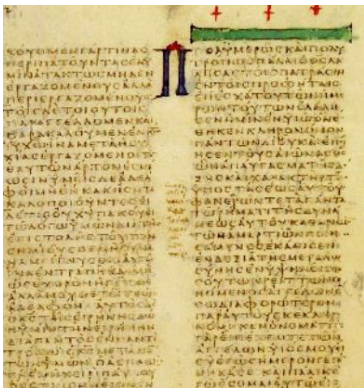


Social baseline
theory

Mirror Systems

Authority

What do *legitimate* authorities (e.g., experts, law, my religion/god) expect of me? To whom or what should I look for guidance?



Rights

What innate human, legal, or social rights apply? How do we best protect those rights?





ASK the 8KQ: A Strategy for Ethical Decision-Making



- Move from REFLEX to REFLECT
- Ask **ALL** the Eight Key Questions.
- Ask open questions that explore the situation
- Avoid rationalizing, jumping to conclusions, my-side and confirmation bias
- For best practice, process in groups that include at least one outsider's point of view

The 8KQ Strategy

1. Notice that you are in an ethical situation
2. Gather morally relevant information by asking each of the 8KQ
3. Weigh considerations
4. Make a decision that is informed by the process

Ethical Issue or Decision to be made:

--

Eight Key Questions – Write at least one question for each KQ that you should consider.

Ask FORCLEAR: **F**airness, **O**utcomes, **R**esponsibilities, **C**haracter, **L**iberty, **E**mpathy, **A**uthority, **R**ights

 Fairness	1. 2.
 Outcomes	1. 2.
 Responsibilities	1. 2.
 Character	1. 2.
 Liberty	1. 2.
 Empathy	1. 2.
 Authority	1. 2.
 Rights	1. 2.

First Grade for Lucy?

Five-year old Lucy attends a half-day Kindergarten. She is the smallest in her class. She often seems to struggle with social skills, paying attention, and basic motor skills such as holding a pencil for writing practice. On standard readiness tests, Lucy scored in the sixth percentile. She seems to act more as a sweet four-year old than someone about to enter first grade. Some teachers at your school suspect it may be due to poor nutrition.

The principal has asked if you are willing to accept Lucy into your class next fall instead of having her repeat kindergarten. If Lucy is in first grade, she would be eligible for free breakfast and lunch. However, teacher pay raises and contracts are partially dependent on student performance.

What should you do?

Welcome to It's Complicated

JMU's signature ethical reasoning strategy for making better decisions.

What ethical issues have you seen or experienced recently?



Rights



Democracy



War



Work



Health



Climate

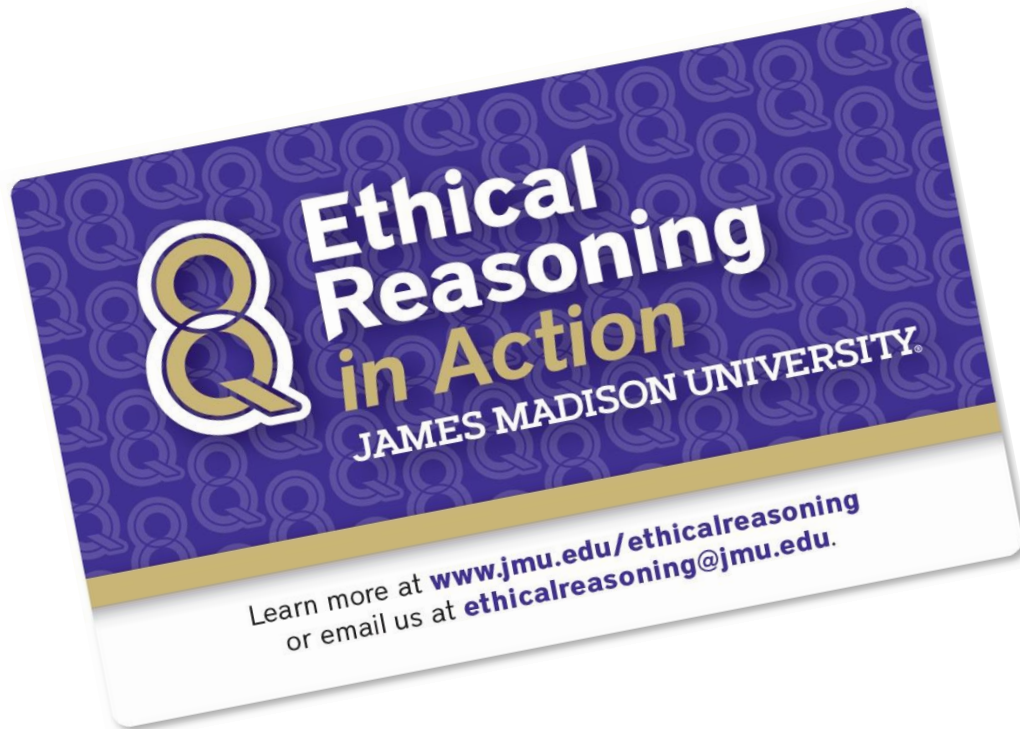


JMU's unique ethical decision-making strategy: The Eight Key Questions





FORCLEAR



The Eight Key Questions

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Fairness

How can I (we) act justly, equitably, balancing interests?

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What do legitimate authorities (e.g., experts, law, my god) expect?

Rights

What rights, if any (e.g., innate, legal, social) apply?

Use the "FORCLEAR" acronym to help you remember all 8KQ.

Learn more at www.jmu.edu/ethicalreasoning

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ASK the 8KQ: A Strategy for Ethical Decision-Making



- **PAUSE**, then ask **ALL** the Eight Key Questions.
- Interrogate automatic intuitions by replacing quick intuitive REFLEXES with slow ethical REFLECTION.
- Ask open questions that explore the situation
- Avoid rationalizing, jumping to conclusions, my-side and confirmation bias
- Process in groups that include at least one outsider's point of view

Student Scenarios

Where have you experience an ethical dilemma recently?

The laundry room? Your dorm room?
A difficult class? Home for a break?

Tell us...



Don't Decide Yet!

Which key questions will help you
to make a decision?



What if you faced a **BIG** decision?



It's Complicated.

This scenario deals with mental health; a concern for all of us. From time to time, social isolation, global crises and uncertainty can overwhelm us and the mental health services we depend on.

If you or someone you know is struggling with their mental health, the JMU Counseling Center has resources available.

Visit them online at jmu.edu/counselingctr

Should your group recommend that the university provide AI-Care?

Ask as many of the Eight Key Questions as you can!



Ethical Issue or Decision to be made:

Should the university respond to the student mental health crisis by providing AI-Care?

Eight Key Questions – Write at least one question for each KQ that you should consider.

Ask FORCLEAR: **F**airness, **O**utcomes, **R**esponsibilities, **C**haracter, **L**iberty, **E**mpathy, **A**uthority, **R**ights

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Don't Decide Yet!

Large group process:

- Form groups of 5-6
- Everyone takes a turn
- Listen to the person speaking

Everyone shares their **FORCLEAR** questions.

As a group, discuss which questions seem most relevant for making a decision.



Share with whole group

1. What ethical questions are important to ask?
2. Which considerations / key questions seem most significant?
3. Why did you choose this key question?
4. After listening to your peers, did anyone change their key question?
5. Process the reasons for the key questions changes.



What did you notice?

Life...It's complicated.

We all face tough personal, professional, and civic ethical decisions. JMU developed the action-guiding Eight Key Questions (8KQ), an ethical reasoning strategy, to help inform everyday *and* “big” ethical decisions.

This flexible strategy tells us *HOW to think* more deeply about our decisions – it empowers agency.

Asking the Eight Key Questions provides guidance for navigating difficult ethical choices and brings to mind shared ethical values and helps to avoid moral “blind spots.” **FORCLEAR.**

Pause, then ask the 8KQ in large, diverse groups, to make better-informed decisions.

Keep the conversation going!

Find us online j.mu/eria or @JMU8KQ
Join the Ethical Reasoning in Action
network.





What did you notice?