**ETHICS IN THE NEWS**

**Assignment**

**Students will work independently to complete this assignment.**

**PART I**

 Read pages 242-248 titled ***What is Ethics? (photocopied handout)***

 Create a list of 10 virtues that you think represent a middle path, or Golden Mean, between two extremes.

 Using the handout titled ***Finding the Golden Mean*** enter in the middle column the 10 virtues on your list. In the first column enter an extreme that represents too little of this virtue and in the third column an extreme that represents too much.

**PART II**

 Using recent newspapers each student is to find two articles about someone who exhibits virtues – or extremes – of behaviour.

 Use the handout titled ***Ethics in the News*** as a guide; analyze how the newspaper articles illustrate virtues or extremes of behaviour.

**Finding the Golden Mean**

In the middle column, fill in the 10 virtues that you have found. In the first column, fill in the name of an extreme that represents too little of this virtue. In the third column, fill in the name of an extreme that represents too much.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Too Little** | **Golden Mean** | **Too Much** |
|  | 1. |  |
|  | 2. |  |
|  | 3. |  |
|  | 4. |  |
|  | 5. |  |
|  | 6. |  |
|  | 7. |  |
|  | 8. |  |
|  | 9. |  |
|  | 10. |  |

**Ethics in the News**

**Consult with your partner to choose a newspaper article in which a moral agent exhibits virtues or extremes of behaviour. Read the article carefully and answer the following questions.**

1. What is the article’s headline?
2. Who is the moral agent who exhibited the virtues or extremes of behaviour?
3. What virtues did the moral agents exhibit or fail to exhibit?

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1. Describe the moral agent’s behaviour.

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1. Do you think the moral agent’s actions were morally right or morally wrong? Why?

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1. In the following box, draw a continuum similar to the one shown in Figure 12.2 on page 245 of your ***What is Ethics?*** handout. Label it with a virtue exhibited (or not exhibited) by the moral agent and add the extremes at either end. Locate the moral agent on the continuum.
2. Were the actions of the moral agent good? Explain your answer.

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1. Were the actions of the moral agent right? Explain your answer.

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