



How do I decide what to do in sticky situations? Exploring Values and Ethics in Science

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Values and Virtues

- **Values:** A person's principles or standards of behavior; one's judgement of what is important in life
- **Virtues:** A conformity to a standard or right; a particular moral excellence; a commendable quality or trait, a beneficial quality

<https://www.menti.com/alouv667zuf7>

Kohlberg's Moral Stages

Level and Age	Stage	What determines right and wrong?
Preconventional Up to the age of 9	Punishment & Obedience	Right and wrong defined by what they get punished for. If you get told off for stealing then obviously stealing is wrong
	Instrumental-Relativist	Similar, but right and wrong is now determined by what we are rewarded for, and by doing what others want. Any concern for others is motivated by selfishness.
Conventional Most adolescents and adults	Interpersonal concordance	Being good is whatever pleases others. The child adopts a conformist attitude to morality. Right and wrong are determined by the majority.
	Law and order	Being good now means doing your duty to society. To this end we obey laws without question and show a respect for authority. Most adults do not progress past this stage.
Postconventional:1 0 to 15% of the over 20s.	Social contract	Right and wrong now determined by personal values, although these can be over-ridden by democratically agreed laws. When laws infringe our own sense of justice we can choose to ignore them.
	Universal ethical principle	We now live in accordance with deeply held moral principles which are seen as more important than the laws of the land.

<https://practicalpie.com/kohlbergs-stages-of-moral-development/> accessed 9/29/25

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