

Responsible Decision Making: SODAS

Situation Options (all of them) Disadvantages Advantages Solutions

The Problem Situation

Option #1

Disadvantage #1

Advantage #1

Option #2

Disadvantage #2

Advantage #2

Option #3

Disadvantage #3

Advantage #3

The Solution I Chose

CHARACTER COUNTS! National Office • (800) 711-2670 • cc@jethics.org • www.charactercounts.org



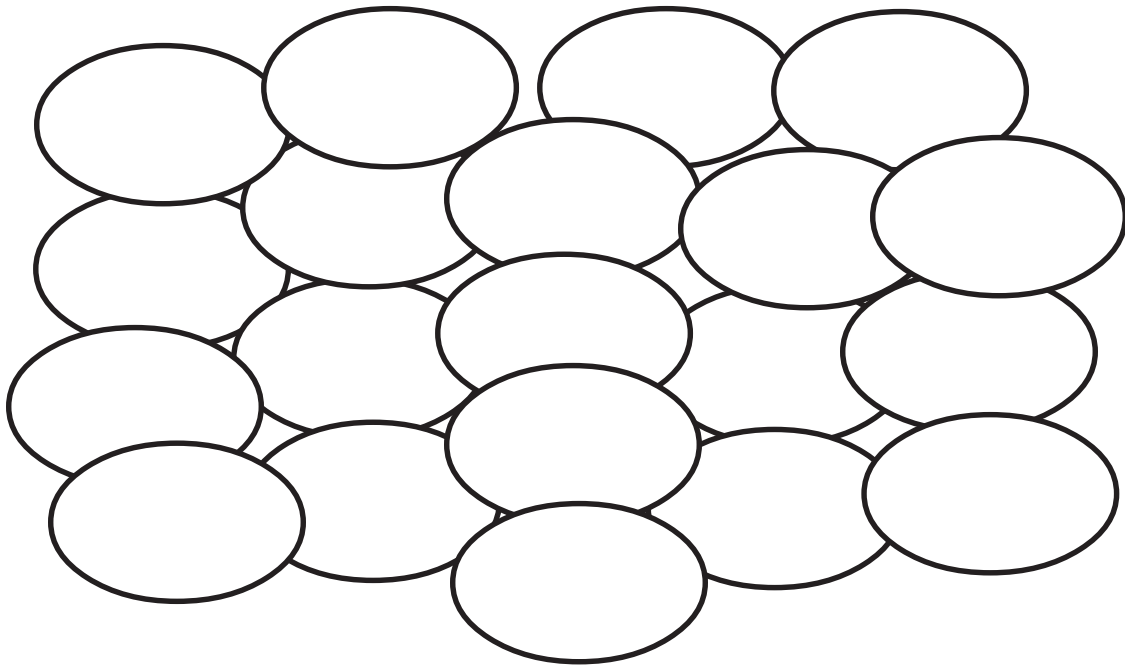
Decision Stakeholders

Kate Lee was a beautiful, vivacious 15-year-old. She got good grades, she was goalie on her hockey team, and she was preparing in every way to go to college and have a productive life. She has two still-married parents, two brothers and an extended, loving family that lives out of town.

One night, during a girls' sleepover at her best friend's house, she got a call from her boyfriend. They decided to meet – he would pick her up – and go to his house for a weekend together. Kate convinced the mom in charge of the sleepover that this was OK with her mom (although she hadn't, in fact, gotten permission) and she left the party.

On the way to his house, although he had only had a "few beers," the boyfriend's car swerved over the yellow line and ran into an oncoming car. Police and emergency crews were called. All people, including a school teacher dad, a small business-owner mom and two children in the other car were sent to the hospital with severe injuries. Kate suffered severe head injuries and doctors said she would need round-the-clock care for quite some time. Her boyfriend, while emotionally injured, was physically unharmed.

Discuss the stakeholders — those affected by Kate's decision to leave the party and go with her boyfriend. In the circles below, list as many of them as you can.



Story created for CHARACTER COUNTS! by Nancy Van Gulick

CHARACTER COUNTS! National Office
(800) 711-2670 • cc@jiethics.org • www.charactercounts.org



Ethical & Effective Decision Making Worksheet

What actions are you considering as a response to the ethical dilemma?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

Now evaluate each of your suggested actions using the following guidelines as taken from the Ethical and Effective Decision Making Model:

Step 1 – Who will be affected by this action? List them and determine what this action will do to each stakeholder. Check whether the action will help them or hurt them.

Name of person who will be affected by this decision	Will be helped	Will be hurt

Total your checks for each column. Will it help more people than it hurts? Keep in mind that sometimes, if your solution hurts anyone, it may be too great a cost for the action. Think carefully.

Step 2 – Does the proposed action uphold the Six Pillars of Character?

	Yes	No	Not Sure
Trustworthiness			
Respect			
Responsibility			
Fairness			
Caring			
Citizenship			

Step 3 – Of all your possible actions, which one will bring the most good to the most people in the long run?

CHARACTER COUNTS! National Office
 (800) 711-2670 • cc@jethics.org • www.charactercounts.org

