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Ethics

Ethics are something that are a necessary part of any good engineer; really they are part of any good and self respecting human being. Although in an ideal world we would not need to have any ethics because people would naturally follow them without question, that is not always true. Therefore, they are a great way to remind people what practices are acceptable, and guide them in their life each and every day. Everyone should be ethical in the way they live no matter if it is in a professional or personal setting. One should not turn them or or off based on the situation.

When in a situation that conflicts with my ethics, I think the first thing I do is step back and ask myself how I got into the situation in the first place. A lot of times, how you got there is just as important as what you are doing, and in many situations you find that you are in this situation for no reason at all and that you can simply walk away from it with no problems. That said, sometimes there are situations in which you must face it head on and make a decision. In this, the first things I do is figure out exactly what is happening. Once I know that, I will see if I can find a way to modify the situation so that I am now acting within the ethics. I would rather admit to someone that I made mistake and acted unethical, then try and cover it up because then you are piling on a bunch of different mistakes, and only making the situation worse.

For our case study we talked about the scandal that is Volkswagen. I think that because this is such a big issue, everyone had the same general opinion that what they did was both unethical and immoral. We all agreed that by covering up and lying to the EPA they made

numerous unethical decisions, and that the leadership should be replaced in order for the company to move forward. We also agreed that there needs to be compensation to the owners of these vehicles, but we were not exactly sure if it should be cash, a new car, or fixing the current models.

Volkswagen failed to uphold Integrity, Honesty and Responsibility. When you look at integrity, it is upholding your personal beliefs and standing by them as a company. They did not do that. They talked about how they believe in lowering emissions all while breaking dozens of EPA and EU laws. With Honesty, they chose to lie and be deceitful by putting a device that cheats the system in their cars for almost 10 years. They directly lied to the public and the government about the efficiency of their cars. Lastly is responsibility. They have a responsibility like everyone on earth to try and be as clean, and respectful to the planet as possible. They are charged with the duty of lowering their emissions and setting a ton for the future. By not doing any of this, they have failed on their responsibilities.