

## Ethics Slam Overview

The ethics slam is all about clear thinking, reasonable discussion and nimble observation about the many ways ethics is embedded in our lives. In the Slam, students respond to a selected Big Ethical Question as best--and as ethically as they can. Students choose a question and then are given three to five minutes to deliver their opinion and response to the chosen question. Their response to the question should be clear and systematic, with identification of ethical dimensions of the question, awareness of different viewpoints, and a normative ethical argument for their position on the question.

### **Some Normative Ethical Approaches**

**Consequentialism** (Utilitarianism): we have a moral obligation to maximize the well-being and minimize any harm brought about by the consequences of our actions.

**Kantianism** (Deontology): we have a moral obligation to act in a way that is universalizable and respects everyone as an end and never as a mere means to an end.

**Virtue Ethics**: we should act with the moral virtues we value and as the person we want to be and in ways that are appropriate to the circumstances (golden mean).

**Care Ethics**: we should act to build trust, avoid violence, minimize future conflict, while prioritizing the well-being of those closest to us.

**Fairness**: we should act in a way that is fair to everyone. No one gets more or less than they deserve, and all are treated impartially and without prejudice.

Learning Objective:

To give each student the competence to address the many ethical situations they will face in their everyday life.

Activity:

Prepare a set of Big Ethical Questions that are relevant to the lives of the students. Have students take turns choosing a question to address. The student can take between 3-to-5 minutes to express their ethical opinion on the question. After the student has given their reply, they can respond to questions from the audience.