

Module 9 – Ethical Reasoning

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1. Describe two situations from your life in which you behaved unethically.
 - a. Crossing the street on a red light

One situation where I behaved unethically was crossing the road when the light was still red. This is unethical in that it was self-serving – I cared about catching the bus so that I was not late for work. This could be considered unethical because I could potentially be endangering my life as well as others around me (e.g. fellow pedestrians who may not be paying attention and think that because someone has crossed, it is already a green light; drivers).
 - b. Gossiping

Another situation where I behaved unethically was when I gossiped about someone. This is unethical in that I don't know the full story; I only heard it from other people as well, and I am sharing a story that may not be fully (or even) true. When I do this, I may be hurting someone's reputation, whether the story is true or not.
2. Identify which Elements of Reasoning failed to adequately meet which Intellectual Standards.
 - a. Crossing the street on a red light

My purpose in not missing the bus so I was not late for work was not relevant to whether I can break the rule of crossing the red light.
 - b. Gossiping

My assumption that the information I had was true (or at least mostly true) and that spreading stories could not be hurtful to the person's reputation was not accurate. The information I had may not be completely accurate. Moreover, as false stories spread, it can hurt a person's reputation and affect their life. It is therefore also not fair; in that I did not consider the person's feelings.