



UNITED TRIBES
TECHNICAL COLLEGE
LAND GRANT EXTENSION

UTTC LAND GRANT EXTENSION

UTTC Lifeskills Lessons – Relationships & Family

Lesson 14: Ethics and Values

LS00014

Lakota Culture

Larry Salway's book *Lakota Culture* includes a list of 10 commandments to use as a guide for daily living. These are statements of ethics and values.

1. Treat the earth with respect.
2. Remain close to the Great Spirit.
3. Show respect for your fellow beings.
4. Work together for the benefit of all mankind.
5. Give assistance and kindness wherever needed.
6. Do what you know to be right.
7. Look after the well-being of your mind and body.
8. Dedicate a share of your efforts to the greater good.
9. Be truthful and honest at all times.
10. Take full responsibility for your action

RESOURCES

- Video: Job Ethics <http://study.com/academy/lesson/what-are-values-morals-ethics.html>
(5 minutes)
- Video: Environmental Ethics and Human Values <http://study.com/academy/lesson/environmental-ethics-human-values-definition-impact-on-environmental-problems.html>
(5 minutes)
- Fralick, M. Native American College & Career Success – Chapter 13
- Salway, L. Lakota Culture

DISCUSS & THINK “What would you do?”

Scenario #1 You are walking in a store behind a young couple. You are close enough to hear the couple's conversation. The man tells the woman that if she does not hide three bottles of aspirin in her purse before they leave, he will beat her “silly” when they get home. What do you do?

Scenario #2 Your seventh grade son tells you he got a picture of a girl in his grade through a text message from another boy in his grade. In the picture the girl was bending over and her upper inner thigh was revealed. Your son showed you the picture and he laughed stating that the whole class got the picture and the girl was mad. What do you do?

Scenario #3 You are parked at a red light and see a young woman holding a baby between the steering wheel and herself. When the light turns green you see the woman put the baby onto her lap and begin to drive forward into traffic. What do you do?

Difference Between Ethics and Values

Every person has a certain set of values and a certain code of ethics, which are very much valued. Some people who do not know the exact difference between ‘values’ and ‘ethics’ often use the two words interchangeably. Though these two words are different, the two together form the basis for decision making and peace.

What are values? They are the basic beliefs that an individual thinks to be true.

Every individual has a set of values through which he looks at all things and also at the world. It can be said that most of the people will never deviate from their values. The values can be said to be the guiding principles in one's life. ‘Value’ can be defined as a bridge by which an individual makes a decision regarding good and bad, right or wrong, this is their conscience.

What are ethics? Ethics are guidelines or rules that are set for a group or an organization rather than for an individual. Ethics can be defined as a set of rules formulated by a tribe or government or some businesses. Ethics is mainly based on individual values. Ethics are mainly based on virtues, rights, and obligations of the individuals that make up a society or business organization.

For example, the obligation to refrain from crimes, killings, and rape is an ethical aspect. Ethics have also been built on loyalty, honesty, and compassion. Therefore values are personal and ethics are societal expectations.

How to Raise Children with Ethics and Values



REMINDER

*"Your actions are so loud.
I can not hear what you are
saying!"*

*List two personal values
for yourself.*

1. _____

2. _____

*List two ethical issues you
are aware of in today's
society.*

1. _____

2. _____

Because of the definitions on the front of this Talking Sheet, we are aware that values are somewhat inborn and instilled because of nurture, home environment, and family spirituality and beliefs. Most indigenous tribes had similar values and ethics guides. If everyone in the tribe or village held the same values, the village was successful in raising ethical children. These are some ideas for parents to use as guides in supporting personal values, which, of course, supports the ethical expectations of the village (society). These guides help children become assets to society and themselves in the future.

1. Be a good example of sound morals, values and strong character. Children should see adults admit to their mistakes and not blame others, adults who help others in need, and live a life of kindness. Families can instill good conscience in children if they "know who they are" and trust the why "our family does not do that" attitude.
2. Say thank you to your children when they act in a good way. When you offer gratitude for good behavior, your child is more likely to continue to exhibit good behavior. A simple thank you is an inexpensive, effective way to build character and is more effective than scolding.
3. Tell your child you are proud of them. For example, when your child comes to you with a bag of material things to give to others and asks you whether you can drive them to the local children's shelter, be ready to act. Tell the child you are proud. Tell your child you are proud when you witness good sportsmanship at school activities, or when they talk to elders, or stand up for victims of bullying. Good deeds build good character and both should be recognized.
4. Help your child to learn to be compassionate. You can do this by encouraging your child to listen when other people are talking. For example, when they are at an event have them sit and pay attention. When your child's friends have a bad day, ask them to be compassionate with a listening ear and offer advice, if they are asked to give advice. How a child behaves in public tells tales on parents.
5. Be there for your children every day. Presence is ethical and vital. Children want to be like the adults in their life. Families who eat together for morning and evening meals, read together several times each week, take time to share stories about life events, and offer thanks to the creator for the beauty and life around them will see children grow into adults who can give love, feel valued, and make ethical, expected choices.

