

## High School Ethics Bowl Template for Cases

- Main Issue
  - What is the moral question? What makes this an ethical issue?
  - Before jumping to whether an issue is right or wrong, try to identify the main details of the case. What stands out as an important detail/piece of evidence?
  - Do you notice any assumptions in the case or study questions? An assumption is an unstated claim; an implicit idea or statement that is not supported by evidence and is not explained in any of the sentences. For example, the question: ‘Should the government limit people from having no more than 2 children or no more than 4 children?’ assumes that the government should be able to limit the number of children at all. Why should we assume that the government can limit the number of children a person can have? This is a substantial claim that needs evidence and argumentation (we cannot just assume it).
  
- Position
  - Try to identify two or more positions/stances that you could take in response to the case/study question.
  - What are the various ways you could approach/respond to this case?
  - Can you re-formulate the study questions to identify a new issue?
  - Does the case leave out any important information?
  
- Reasons
  - For each position, identify the main reasons (evidence) in support of that position.
  - For each position, identify the main reasons (evidence) against that position.
  - You will need to do some outside research to find evidence—if a case cites a particular law, then read several articles about the law. If the case cites female infanticide as a reason to end the One Child Policy, then search for statistics on the number of female infanticides and what is being done to end this practice.
  - Citing statistics can inform your position, but statistics will not answer whether something is right or wrong. For instance, even if there are \_\_\_ billion chickens killed each year, it does not follow that this practice is wrong. You have to provide additional reasons why it is wrong to kill non-human animals.
  - Organize these reasons like an outline of a paper:
    - Reason A
    - Reason B
    - Reason C
    - Conclusion
  - Organize your reasons for the two main positions, so you can argue either side of the case and raise new ideas/objections during the Ethics Bowl.