

Overview of the CED Guided Deliberation Process (ced.du.edu)

The website guides all users through four stages of ethical deliberation. New users are encouraged to go through all of the stages in order; returning users have the option to tailor their deliberations using only the stage(s) with which they especially need guidance.

- 1) **Describing the Situation:** here users describe how the situation initially appears to them – why they think they are facing an ethically significant choice, what they are worried about, etc.
- 2) **Honing Your Perception:** here users are prompted to identify additional features of their situation that are ethically significant, but which they may not have initially noticed.
 - This stage introduces users to the three classical *ethical frameworks*
 - the *Consequences Framework*, which focuses our attention on the likely outcomes of the various courses of action we might choose;
 - the *Duties Framework*, which focuses our attention on the obligations we have in various kinds of situations; and
 - the *Virtues Framework*, which focuses our attention on the character traits that motivate people to act in various ways.
 - Each framework is a way of structuring our thinking about a situation.
 - The vast majority of ethical theories can be understood as falling within one or more of these frameworks
 - Psychological research also suggests that most people's ordinary moral thinking falls naturally within one of these frameworks.
 - Users are encouraged to deliberate with all three frameworks, since each generates slightly different insights. However, the site can be successfully navigated using only one framework.
- 3) **Clarifying Your Judgment:** here users are prompted to identify the specific ethical principles and/or values that will anchor their final decisions.
 - This stage introduces users to a variety of *ethical perspectives*
 - each perspective articulates and defends specific principles and values
 - users are strongly encouraged to explore the most influential historical and contemporary perspectives, as well as to develop a perspective of their own
 - Each perspective is a specific way of looking through one of the three frameworks.
 - Perspectives on Consequences include *Classical Utilitarianism* and *Ethical Egoism*
 - Perspectives on Duty include *Kantian Ethics*, *Rawlsian Ethics*, and *Rights-based* approaches.
 - Perspectives on Virtue include: *Ancient Greek Ethics*, *Confucianism*, *Buddhism*, *Taoism*, *Christianity*, and contemporary *Feminist Ethics of Care*.
- 4) **Cultivating Your Motivation:** here users are prompted to consider whether they can actually do the action they have judged to be ethically appropriate.
 - The main sources of motivational problems are identified, along with strategies for overcoming problems stemming from each source.
 - Users are reminded of how each of the three frameworks answers the question, "Why be ethical?"