

# 9 Ethics

## Activities

*Evaluating critical thinking in writing: evaluating solutions*

- 1 a Read this essay question, which is in a problem/solution format, and try to think of as many solutions as possible to the problem.

Suggest and evaluate possible solutions to unethical behaviour at work.

- b Evaluate your solutions using the table below. Write each of your solutions along the top and down the side. When you compare A with B, which is better? Write your answer in the box.

	solution A _____	solution B _____	solution C _____	solution D _____
solution A _____				
solution B _____				
solution C _____				
solution D _____				

- c Record the total for each solution in this table.

solution	A	B	C	D
number of times selected				

- d Based on this form of analysis, which is the best solution?
- e Using the paired-comparison analysis above, is there one solution that is clearly stronger, or are there many equally possible solutions? Depending on your answer, which method of organization would you select from the two below?

Problem/solution essays

Model A

- 1 Introduction highlighting the problem
- 2 Solution 1
- 3 Solution 2
- 4 Solution 3
- 5 Conclusion

Model B

- 1 Introduction highlighting the problem
- 2 Solution
- 3 Further details on the solution
- 4 Further details on the solution
- 5 Conclusion

- 2 a** Use this quote to help you write a paragraph describing and defining ethics. Make sure your paragraph has a topic sentence, examples and a concluding sentence.

‘Ethics has also been called the study and philosophy of human conduct, with an emphasis on determining right and wrong’ (Fraedrich, Ferrell and Ferrell, 2011:7).

- b** If possible, exchange your paragraph with a partner. Try to underline the three features listed in Exercise 2a in your partner’s paragraph.

- 3** Choose one of your solutions from Exercise 1 and write a paragraph describing it.

- 4** These terms can all be used to evaluate your solutions. Form the opposite of each adjective by adding either the prefix *in-* or the prefix *un-* to each one.

1 accurate   2 convincing   3 correct   4 justified   5 reasonable   6 sound  
7 valid   8 warranted

- 5** Write a paragraph that evaluates your suggested solution(s).

**Using sources:  
incorporating quotes**

- 6** Match the comments (a–b) to the correct quote (1–2).

- 1 Fraedrich, Ferrell and Ferrell (2011) argue that companies need rules, policies and regulations to control unethical behaviour.
- 2 The United States Chamber of Commerce (2006) highlighted that 75% of employees steal stationery from their workplace and that 25% did not see an issue with such behaviour.
- a** This perhaps suggests that unethical behaviour is more likely if an employee is given the opportunity for such conduct to occur.
- b** This behaviour, that some consider unethical, is clearly allowed to occur in some companies; however, were an employee to transfer to a company with a different view, an issue may occur.

- 7 a** Look at this thesis statement and the quotes from the main body of the essay (1–2). Think about the main line of argument: how might the author intend to use each quote?

All individuals have the propensity to behave unethically, and it is the companies’ responsibility to limit the opportunity for such behaviour to occur.

- 1 The visible evidence of unethical behaviour occurring without punishment is likely to foster a culture of such behaviour within a company (Fraedrich, Ferrell and Ferrell, 2011).
- 2 Fraedrich, Ferrell and Ferrell (2011) argue unethical behaviour cannot be controlled unless appropriate policies are put in place to do so.

- b** Write a topic sentence to introduce each quote.

- c** Write a sentence commenting on each quote in relation to the main line of argument.

- d** Conclude the paragraphs and link the first one to the second one.

- e** Add a suitable conclusion and introduction to your essay. Refer to Units 4 and 8 if you are not sure how to structure these.

**Extension** Find further sources that support your solutions and incorporate these in your essay.