

ESSAY TOPIC- MORALITY

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Nowadays whenever a person turns on the TV or flips open a page into newspapers, they will come across all sorts of bad news. Murder, stolen money, wars, protests, gambling, etc, etc....If we ask an average citizen, what is at root of these issues, they may rush to say it's: morality. Rather, lack of morality. We always rush to blame others for their sins and negative actions due to lack of morality, but we fail miserably when it comes to examining the morality within ourselves. Immorality lives in our everyday lives. When we flout the rules of society, starting with small things such as skipping people ahead at the grocery line, we ultimately transgress bigger lines in life.

A notorious example of this is Bernie Madoff. He has skipped ahead of a lot of people in his career. Needless to say, he met his appropriate fate when he was sentenced to lifetime imprisonment. However, due to his money embezzlement, lot of innocent people lost their money. Madoff is a prime example of race to the bottom in our society. Race to the bottom is the concept of the degeneration of the rules and regulation in an orderly society, mainly due to greed for money and power. The actions of individuals like Madoff, entice other people to take similar shortcuts. In the end we're left with devastating results such as the recession of the years 2008 and 2009.

During those years, many rich people such as Bernie Madoff flouted government rules and regulations. It's safe to say that if these individuals were moral and made decisions that are good for the sake of greater society, we wouldn't hit recession. Although lot of people didn't have to pay the price for their actions, certain people like Madoff were jailed or fined. This shows us that ultimately, morality is the best policy for living a life free of trouble and unhappiness. The truth of the matter is that immoral actions can't sustain our society for a long period of time. For example, the global warming issue. Many corporate giants such as the

automobile industry won't compromise with the rules and regulations to make profits. As a result, more and more pollution is leaking into our atmosphere, and eventually can lead to something catastrophic. If these corporations made the moral choice, of following rules and regulations regardless of its effect on their profits, we wouldn't even have to worry about global warming. The problem would've been solved before it even began.

If the solution to some of the most talked about problems in our world, come from morality, then one must ask why do individuals fail to follow a moral path. The simple answer to that is that it's not easy to lead a moral life in the 21st century. Depending on how moral or immoral a person is, it can directly affect how much salary they will make per year. Another problem is that there's no incentive to live justly. Our society so beautifully rewards people for doing bad things, but we rarely reward the people who work for the good. There are people who are robbing innocents of their money, but at the same time there are individuals who are in places like Somalia helping the poor. The sad thing about is that people like Madoff who rob people of their money, are the people who give themselves millions of dollars in salary. Their salary comes from people's money. However, the people who are out in the world helping others, sometimes don't even know where their next meal will come from. These people are trying to do the moral things, but only few people in our society are helping them. It's sufficient to say that in this day and age, morality comes with a high price.

The 21st century world is stuck in a limbo. We can't live with morality, and we most certainly can't solve our problems without morality. So the imperative question arises. What do we do? Immoral actions and decisions have seeped to the very core of governments, corporations and even civility around the world. It's so deeply embedded that the only way to uproot it is by instilling ethics among the youth. Education is one of the best mediums for instilling a sense of

fairness in the young generation, and many more generations to come. Schools and colleges should have mandatory course that teaches laws and ethics. Matter of fact, currently I'm taking a course called, "Law and Ethics of business," as part of my honors minor. My professor requires the class to read the NY Times four times a week. We are consistently quizzed to make sure we do our readings. Plus, we engage in class discussions about current events. Our discussions lead to the topic of ethics and morality.

"Law and Ethics of business," and similar classes have deep rooted impact on highschool and college students. We are at the crossroads of building our lives and careers. The values that are instilled in us during this time period, are the values we will carry with us in our professional and personal lives. At the very least, these classes will surely make a student, think twice before making harmful decisions for society. I also think that students should have an active dose of education which will bring the theories of morals and ethics into their practical lives. They should be required to mentor other peers in educating them about what's right and what's wrong. They should help their peers understand the needs and benefits of ethics.

I can vouch for this from personal experience. I'm currently a computer science major, on track for becoming a Financial Engineer in the future. To me, my "Law and Ethics of business," class is invaluable. Due to the mandatory newspaper readings in the classroom, I have become significantly better informed about the corporate world, banks, and government. It's made me question myself as to what kind of human being I want to become in life. At times I feel completely broken down, and hopeless, when I see people making progress by flouting social norms and humanity. But then, I become even more conscious about morality and make it a point to myself to not resort to actions which will harm others.

Morality is the key to live a happy life, free of crimes and burdens from doing inhumane things. Such as robbing, killing, etc. This essential key is unfortunately lacking in our everyday lives, making the world lose order and fairness. The way to restore morals, is to educate our peers, and younger generation the effects and benefits of incorporating morality in our actions and decision. If people become more conscious about their obligations as a human to be just with others and themselves, we will get much closer to living harmoniously.