

Ethics Writing Assignment

Ethics is a term that refers to a code or moral system that provides criteria for evaluating right and wrong. An ethical dilemma is a situation in which an individual or group is faced with a decision that tests this code. Many of these dilemmas are simple to recognize and resolve. For example, have you ever been tempted to ask your professor for an extension on the due date of an assignment by claiming a fictitious illness? Temptation like this will test your personal ethics.

As accounting students learn their craft through rule-memorization, textbook problem-solving, and the "hands on" experience of encountering new business situations, they are building a foundation of technical information and work habits that might be labeled "accounting knowledge." The accounting knowledge base and the development of communication skills are key aspects of accounting, but an additional, special self-discipline marks full identity as a professional accountant. This discipline is the expectation that the professional accountant makes ethical decisions and exercise moral judgment in the performance of professional duties.

(http://higheredbcs.wiley.com/legacy/college/kieso/0470374942/gate/Ethics_in_Accounting/ethics_in_accounting.html)



Assignment: Write a well composed response to the following questions. It should be in paragraph format, with the exception of # 4, can be listed out. Upload it to Classroom. See the Open Response Rubric for grading criteria

1. What is Ethics?
2. Summarize an article that talks about Ethics in Accounting (cite your source)
3. Why is it important for accountants to be ethical?
4. What steps would you follow when faced with an ethical dilemma in the accounting industry?
5. After reading the case below, using the steps you outlined above, what would you do?
6. Summary - Your thoughts on Ethics in Accounting

CASE: You have recently been employed by a large retail chain that sells sporting goods. One of your tasks is to help prepare periodic financial statements for external distribution. The chain's largest creditor, National Savings & Loan, requires quarterly financial statements, and you are currently working on the statements for the three-month period ending June 30, 2006.

During the months of May and June, the company spent \$1,200,000 on a large radio and TV advertising campaign. The \$1,200,000 included the costs of producing the commercials as well as the radio and TV time purchased to run the commercials. All of the costs were charged to advertising expense. The company's chief financial officer (CFO) has asked you to prepare a June 30 adjusting entry to remove the costs from advertising expense and to set up an asset called *prepaid advertising* that will be expensed in July. The CFO explained that "This advertising campaign has produced significant sales in May and June and I think it will continue to bring in customers through the month of July. By recording the ad costs as an asset, we can match the cost of the advertising with the additional July sales. Besides, if we expense the advertising in May and June, we will show an operating loss on our income statement for the quarter. The bank requires that we continue to show quarterly profits in order to maintain our loan in good standing."



Rubric: Open Response Rubric (20 Points)

Ethics Writing Assignment

Open Response Rubric

Criteria	4	3	2	1	0
Quality of Response	Writer responds effectively, accurately and insightfully to all important parts of the question.	Writer responds accurately to all important parts of the question.	Writer responds to some but not all parts of the question.	Writer misunderstands most of the question or does not respond to the prompts.	No response or response is completely incorrect.
Evidence and Supporting Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writer provides carefully chosen, relevant details as evidence to support his/her answer. Writer demonstrates clear understanding of the topic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writer provides relevant details as evidence to support his/her answer Writer demonstrates a sufficient understanding of the topic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writer provides some relevant details as evidence to support his/her answer. Writer attempts to demonstrate an understanding of the topic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writer does not provide details or details are not relevant to support his/her answer. Writer demonstrates little understanding of the topic. 	
Word Choice and Organization	Writer responds in 3 to 5 well developed and organized paragraphs	Writer responds in 2 to 3 organized paragraphs	Writer responds in 2 or less paragraphs demonstrating some organization	Writer responds in 1 or less paragraphs containing little or no organization .	
Use of Terms and Vocabulary	Writer uses relevant key terms smoothly and correctly in his/her answer.	Writer uses some relevant key terms correctly in his/her answer.	Writer uses some key terms correctly in his/her answer.	Writer does not use key terms correctly in his/her answer.	
Conventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writer has control of conventions. Relatively free of errors in spelling, punctuation, sentence structure, and paragraphing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writer may have some problems with conventions. Few errors in spelling, punctuation, sentence structure, and paragraphing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writer has some problems with conventions. Errors do distract the reader, but do not interfere in understanding of the response. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writer has problems with conventions. errors that interfere in the understanding of the response 	
Total Points:	SCORE /20				