

FOURTH PLACE RECIPIENT

Throwing My Friend Under The Bus

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Ethics are an important part of my life because they help me understand the difference between right and wrong. Ethics guide the choices I make, especially when I am in a tricky situation. For me being ethical is being honest, responsible, respectful, and fair to others. I learned an important lesson about ethics when I was in middle school. It was a difficult experience, but it helped me understand why doing the right thing matters, even when it is not easy.

One day, one of my friends hacked into a school's administrators account. He had access to confidential information that students were not supposed to see. My friend told me about what he had done, and I immediately got nervous because I knew that situation was serious. At first, I was not sure what to do. I knew that if I told the administrators, my friend could get in trouble. However, I also knew that what he had done was wrong.

I had to make a difficult choice. I could keep the information to myself and protect my friend, or I could tell my school administrators what was happening. I knew that my friend might be angry with me if I told. Even though I was afraid of losing my friend's trust I decided to tell my school's administrators. I knew that keeping a secret about something wrong would also make me part of that bad decision.

The administrators investigated and my friend was suspended from school for several days. It was hard for me because I felt like I had "thrown my friend under the bus". I did not want him to get punished, but I also knew that his action could have serious problems. I realized that being a good friend does not mean supporting someone when they do something wrong. Sometimes being a good person means making a difficult choice to prevent a bigger problem.

Afterward, the administrators called my parents to thank them for raising me with good ethics and strong moral values. This made me proud because it showed me that the lessons my parents had taught me had helped me make the right decision. It also showed me that one honest choice can make a difference.

This experience taught me that ethics are not just rules that tell us what we should or should not do. Ethics are values that guide me and help me become a responsible person. In my life I want to continue being honest and making choices that I can be proud of, even when they can be uncomfortable or difficult.