



Club Achievements:

2022 Middle School Ethics Olympiad - 1 National Honourable Mention

2023 High School Ethics Olympiad - 1 International Gold Medal, 1 National Gold Medal

2023 Middle School Ethics Olympiad - 1 National Gold Medal, 1 National Bronze Medal, 1 International Honourable Mention

2024 High School Ethics Olympiad - 1 National Bronze Medal, 1 National Honourable Mention

2024 Middle School Ethics Olympiad - Training in progress

Training:

I took at least 2 months with each team, to prepare them before the Olympiad.

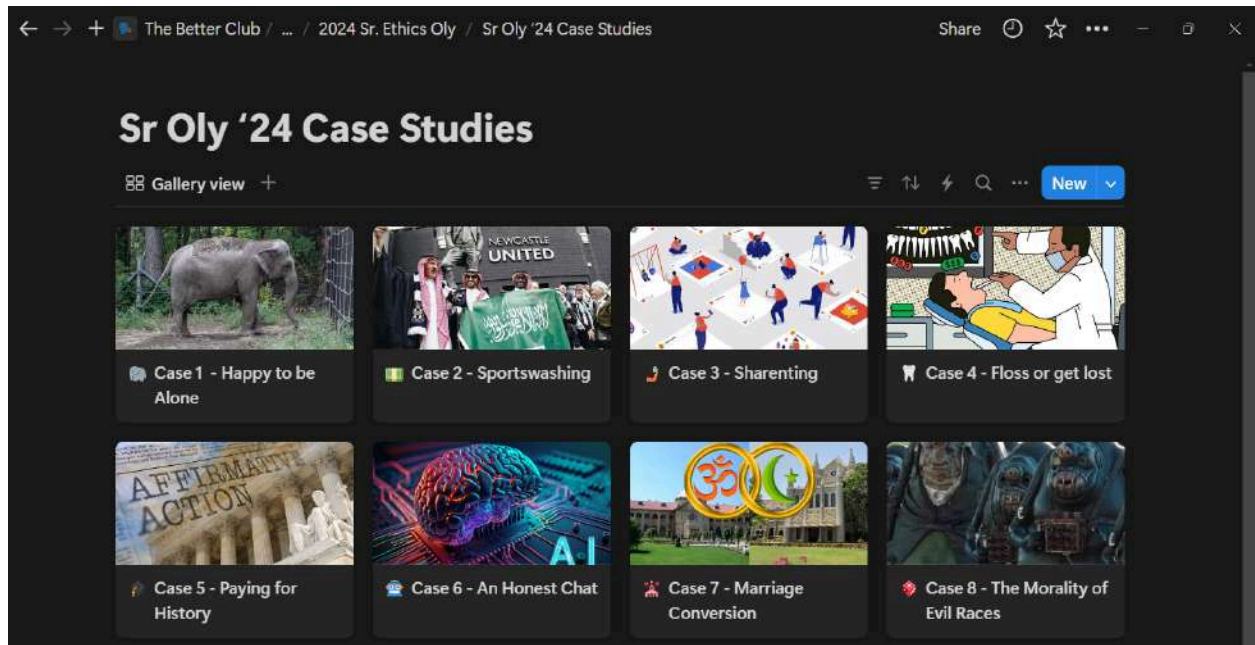
First, I would hold selection rounds, typically at least 3 months before the Olympiad. Selection rounds consisted of either debates (Middle School) or Socratic Seminars (High School), to judge participants' critical thinking and ability to analyze the case studies.

After that, I would introduce them to ethical theories, principles, philosophical razors, etc. Over the course of a year or so, I developed flashcards, some of which are attached below.

'The Better Club' - Ethics Club of MIT VGS

<p>Autonomy <i>Principle</i></p> <p>Explanation: The principle of autonomy recognizes the right of an individual to make their own decisions. This is deeply tied to the concept of respect for persons, emphasizing personal liberty and self-determination.</p> <p>To be used whenever individual choice or consent is involved, especially in medical or research contexts.</p> <p>Example: In medical procedures, even if a treatment is beneficial, it shouldn't be administered without the patient's informed consent.</p>	<p>Fidelity <i>Principle</i></p> <p>Explanation: Fidelity refers to loyalty, faithfulness, and keeping promises or agreements. It stresses the importance of trust in relationships.</p> <p>To be used in professional relationships, including therapist-client or research-participant dynamics.</p> <p>Example: A researcher must ensure that they uphold any promise made to participants, like maintaining confidentiality or returning results.</p>	<p>Confidentiality <i>Principle</i></p> <p>Explanation: Confidentiality pertains to the privacy of individuals and their information. It dictates that personal information must be kept secure and private unless there's a compelling reason to disclose it.</p> <p>To be used primarily in professions that handle sensitive information, like healthcare, therapy, or law.</p> <p>Example: A therapist, regardless of the information shared during sessions, must maintain confidentiality, only breaking it if there's an immediate threat of harm to the client or others.</p>	<p>Contractarianism <i>Theory</i></p> <p>Explanation: Contractarianism is based on the idea of a social agreement among rational individuals to benefit from a set of rules.</p> <p>To be used when thinking about the ethical foundations of social rules and governance.</p> <p>Example: Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, and Jean-Jacques Rousseau.</p> <p>Central figure(s): Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, and Jean-Jacques Rousseau.</p>	<p>Hume's Guillotine <i>Razor</i></p> <p>Razor: What ought to be cannot be deduced from what is.</p> <p>Explanation: This razor states that what morally ought to be done cannot be deduced from non-moral information - facts, opinions, etc.</p> <p>Example: If a person was to claim that unicorns exist, and then ask you to prove to them that they don't - you can use Hume's razor, as they aren't able to provide evidence that it does exist.</p>	<p>Newton's Flaming Laser Sword <i>Razor</i></p> <p>Razor: Claims that require a sword or a flaming laser sword to cut through are not worth arguing about.</p> <p>Example: When asked about the meaning of life, you might focus on actionable questions instead, as they can lead to practical progress.</p>
<p>Beneficence <i>Principle</i></p> <p>Explanation: Beneficence involves actions that promote the well-being of others. In ethics, it requires that individuals act in the best interests of the patient or subject.</p> <p>To be used particularly in caregiving or therapeutic contexts where the primary goal is to promote good.</p> <p>Example: Doctors, for instance, have an ethical obligation not just to avoid harm, but actively promote the well-being of their patients, recommending treatments that would be most beneficial.</p>	<p>Veracity <i>Principle</i></p> <p>Explanation: Veracity centers on truth-telling and honesty. It highlights the moral imperative of conveying information truthfully.</p> <p>To use in situations that demand full disclosure or clarity, especially in healthcare or legal scenarios.</p> <p>Example: If a patient asks about their prognosis, the provider of accuracy would alter the physician to provide an honest response, even if the news is difficult.</p>	<p>Utilitarianism <i>Theory</i></p> <p>Explanation: Proposes that the best action is the one that maximizes utility, often defined as happiness or pleasure minus suffering or pain.</p> <p>To be used when attempting to choose an action that will result in the greatest good for the greatest number of people.</p> <p>Example: In the trolley or doctor problem, killing the singular person to save the other five would show utilitarianism, as it saves a majority of the people.</p>	<p>Egoism <i>Theory</i></p> <p>Explanation: Egoism argues that the best and most rational action is one that benefits the self.</p> <p>To be used when considering the morality of actions based on their impact on oneself.</p> <p>Example: A businessperson, motivated by their egoism or self-interest, might choose a profitable action, even if it leads to their personal destruction.</p>	<p>Grice's Razor <i>Razor</i></p> <p>Razor: As a principle of parsimony, conversational implications are to be preferred over semantic content for linguistic explanations.</p> <p>Explanation: This razor effectively says that you shouldn't consider the textbook definition for words, but instead factor in the context to determine your understanding.</p>	<p>Sagan's Standard <i>Razor</i></p> <p>Razor: Extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence.</p> <p>Explanation: This razor states that extraordinary claims must be supported by extraordinary evidence. It's often used to dismiss pseudoscience or unfounded beliefs.</p>
<p>Non-Maleficence <i>Principle</i></p> <p>Explanation: Often summarized as "do no harm," non-maleficence means not inflicting intentional harm. It demands an absence of harm or hurt.</p> <p>To be used in almost all ethical scenarios, but especially highlighted in healthcare.</p> <p>Example: If a new drug has unknown side effects, a doctor following non-maleficence might opt not to prescribe it until more is known about its potential risks.</p>	<p>Epistemology <i>Idea</i></p> <p>Explanation: Epistemology is the study of knowledge, its nature, and how it is acquired. It focuses on the methods and standards for justifying our beliefs.</p> <p>Example: The study of how we know what we know, and the methods we use to justify our beliefs.</p>	<p>Relativism <i>Theory</i></p> <p>Explanation: Holds that individuals have inherent rights that should not be infringed upon.</p> <p>When to Use: When considering the fundamental rights of individuals, often in political or social contexts.</p> <p>Example: Free speech, the right to privacy, and the right to life are often cited in rights-based arguments. If a new law proposed restricting free speech to maintain peace, a rights-based relativist might oppose it on the grounds of infringing on an inherent right.</p>	<p>Ontology <i>Idea</i></p> <p>Explanation: Ontology is the study of being and existence, concerned with the fundamental nature of reality and the relationships between different entities.</p> <p>Example: The study of what exists, how entities can be identified, and the nature of their existence.</p>	<p>Hitchcock's Razor <i>Razor</i></p> <p>Razor: That which can be asserted without evidence can be dismissed without evidence.</p> <p>Example: If a person was to claim that unicorns exist, and then ask you to prove to them that they don't - you can use Hitchcock's razor, as they aren't able to provide evidence that it does exist.</p>	<p>Epistemology <i>Idea</i></p> <p>Explanation: Epistemology is the study of knowledge, its nature, and how it is acquired. It focuses on the methods and standards for justifying our beliefs.</p> <p>Example: The study of how we know what we know, and the methods we use to justify our beliefs.</p>
<p>Justice <i>Principle</i></p> <p>Explanation: The principle of justice involves fairness and equality. It dictates that individuals be treated equally and benefit from a fair share of resources.</p> <p>To be used in situations involving distribution of resources, rights, or care.</p> <p>Example: Consider organ transplants. The principle of justice would argue against a system where the wealthy can bypass waiting lists, ensuring that organs are distributed based on medical need and not on social or economic status.</p>	<p>Biophilosophy <i>Idea</i></p> <p>Explanation: Biophilosophy is the study of the relationship between biology and philosophy. It explores the philosophical implications of biological findings.</p> <p>Example: The study of the mind-body problem, the nature of consciousness, and the ethical implications of genetic engineering.</p>	<p>Virtue <i>Theory</i></p> <p>Explanation: Focuses on the development of virtuous character traits rather than the rightness or wrongness of individual actions.</p> <p>To be used when considering the kind of person one ought to be or the character traits one should cultivate.</p> <p>Central figure(s): Aristotle</p>	<p>Deep Ecology <i>Idea</i></p> <p>Explanation: Deep ecology is an environmental philosophy that advocates for the intrinsic value of all living beings, arguing that nature should be preserved for its own sake rather than solely for human benefit. This perspective encourages a holistic approach to environmental issues, emphasizing the interconnectedness of ecosystems and the need for sustainable practices.</p>	<p>Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs <i>Idea</i></p> <p>Explanation: The hierarchy of needs is used to study how humans intrinsically behave in behavioral motivation. The idea is that individuals' most basic needs must be met before they become motivated to achieve higher-level needs.</p> <p>Example: A person who is hungry (physiological need) will not be motivated to achieve self-actualization (self-actualization need) until their basic needs are met.</p>	<p>Epistemology <i>Idea</i></p> <p>Explanation: Epistemology is the study of knowledge, its nature, and how it is acquired. It focuses on the methods and standards for justifying our beliefs.</p> <p>Example: The study of how we know what we know, and the methods we use to justify our beliefs.</p>

Additionally, we started going through the case studies and making notes. Below is a screenshot of one of the Notion layouts we used (the original Google Doc was 39 pages long).



While I started by meeting the mentees 1-2 times a week for our 1 hour of co-curricular time, once we got closer to the competition it was common for me to have meetings 4-5 times a week, alongside short calls on Zoom or Gmeet.