



HOW PROFESSIONAL CODES OF ETHICS WORK

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Professionals in diverse fields also observe certain codes of ethics in their specific industry. Every career has its own accompanying list of ethics that must be observed by the specific professional in the conduct of his profession. By having such codes, professionals are also able to stay true to the tenets of their respective professions.

Teachers, being the molders of young minds, must always strive to be good role models to those they teach. Responsible for providing an environment that is conducive to learning, teachers must strive to stay devoted to their job at all times in order to empower their students in reaching their utmost potentials. Without dedication, a teacher can never hope to fulfill her huge responsibilities. Aside from devotion to her profession, a teacher must also be neutral in discussing certain sensitive topics with her students. Showing partiality in such issues as historical controversies and even current ones would only make the students choose sides unnecessarily. Yes, enlightened teaching necessitates that a teacher learn to take certain issues with her own stand, but she must always strive to be impartial especially with whatever concepts she teaches. In addition to devotion and neutrality, a teacher should also: learn to show respect to everyone, no matter what race or creed; conduct herself in the most professional manner at all times; and practice honesty and integrity in teaching her students.

The Hippocratic Oath taken by medical professionals at the onset of their career pretty much sets down the specific code of ethics for all medical practitioners. Aside from doing no harm, Medical professionals are also duty-bound to serve those in need, which translates to the universal access of patients to medical care. Aside from these, doctors are also to conduct themselves in all honesty and lawfulness, observing their patients' basic medical and human rights. Doctors are also bound to observe the doctor-patient confidentiality concept by being loyal to the people they serve.

Aside from conducting themselves in the most honorable and responsible manner possible, engineers are also responsible for ensuring that whatever structure or form they work on upholds the utmost safety, well-being, and health of the public. Part of their responsibility entails that engineers only perform tasks which are specific to their area of expertise. Intentional deception or misleading people into believing certain aspects of their work should never be done by responsible engineers.

Yes, different professions have their own codes of ethics to follow. As a career professional, doing one's assigned task is essential. But what is more crucial is conducting oneself according to the tenets of one's profession. In the end, that alone demonstrates just how professional one truly is.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. In your opinion, are there any additional rules by which professionals should conduct themselves?
2. Why are professional codes of ethics necessary?
3. What would you do if your teacher wasn't conducting herself professionally?
4. Have you or someone you know ever had a bad experience with a medical professional? Be able to talk about that experience in detail, if you can.
5. In your own profession, how do you practice a professional code of conduct at all times? Be specific.

REFERENCES:

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