

## Ethics Homework

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### Prompt:

Answer the following scenario in essay form. Think about the long-term effects of your decision on personal interaction and business productivity in a real business environment.

Bob, your manager, is CEO and director of the RED company. Patricia, Simon, and you have been assigned as team leads for three inter-related (similar talents) groups. The RED company has an opportunity to win a \$19M foundation funding if it is successful in completing and submitting an entry into the Interactive Bio-Ergonomic Symposium in Cleveland within the next 45 days. The only other known competitor is the BLUE Company. Patricia's team massages and compiles data, creates statistics, and generates charts. Simon's team generates actual models based on the client's input data, and normalized costs based on the clients input. Your team is responsible for the public interface. That is, your team will design the GUI, all Meta keys, scripts, and any APIs needed to talk to Simon and Patricia's applications. From the most recent status meeting with Bob, it was noted that Simon was on track, Patricia was actually ahead of schedule, and you were lagging behind. You promised Bob that your team would be on target so that the RED company could submit its entry within the time allotted. You assured Bob that failure is not an option. What you didn't tell Bob was that you and your four other team members were already working 50-60 hours per week. In addition, you find out that Troy, a programmer, has been "moonlighting" his talent with another small business. (He really needs the money!). Though he is an excellent programmer, his productivity has noticeably decreased. Susan is privy of Troy's productivity and has helped him on occasion, but she cannot afford to trade her home life with husband and children to cover for Troy. Anyway, she is a PHP programmer; Troy's expertise is in HTML and CPP. Andy and Shanetta have strengths in graphics design. Andy is going through a divorce and has to balance legal issues with work. He is just short of obnoxious, but is smart. His legal issues should be completed within a month or so. Shanetta has marketing experience, and, sometimes, upon Bob's request, acts as the RED company's PR person. She is young and talented, though, and if pushed too hard, would leave the RED company in a heartbeat. You have some experience in all of the technical areas, and have done a good job filling in where needed in addition to your assigned script-writing task. You are already working extra hours. Lastly, you and your teammates are friends.

Drawing from some of the ideas presented in the ethics class and your own experiences and professionalism, please answer the question "What are you going to do?" Write in essay form what you think is a professional, ethical, viable solution for your team's success.

### Response:

The first action that I would take as group leader is to bring the hammer down on Troy. The RED company is a very professional and hard working company, and we do not have time for people as important as Troy to be working for other companies. If money is an issue, we can gladly give him a raise if he shows us that he is worth the raise. These actions alone would help to increase productivity.

Susan is a hard worker with a family, and she should not have to cover for Troy and his antics. In the case of Andy, we only have 45 days to finish this project, and if he is unproductive for 30 days of those 45 days, it is just unacceptable. Either he starts working properly, or a different person will replace him until he is ready to work dedicatedly for the RED company. Even though he is a friend, work comes first in this situation. We will not be firing him, just giving him a "forced vacation" until he can come back to work properly.

With Shanetta, if she is showing any signs of uncertainty about this job, we can work towards convincing her to stay by means of a raise. This will help to increase her productivity and will help to convince her to stay and work with us.

Hopefully, all of these tough decision will help to improve the RED company in the long run in our goal to earn the 19M foundation.