

## Making Comparative Arguments

### A. The goal of the lesson

In this lesson, the students have presented in front of an ethical dilemma that in most cases causes a lively discussion in which people have radically different viewpoints. The students need to set some criteria to the ethical metric they are using and argue why that metric is better than the metric set by another student or a group. By this lesson, the students will learn the importance of comparison.

### B. Activities

#### Exercise (45 min)

Use the dilemma from section F. The trainer will be the storyteller and tell the story to the students. After finishing the story ask students to form a group of 3-4. Ask these to make a list of the characters and mark who was the most ethical/least in the blame for bad things that happened. Give the groups time to discuss the issue. When they are finished, ask each of the group to present their list.

Most likely different groups have come up with different lists. Ask students to justify their selection. Have other students rebut the arguments behind the selection.

Talk about the criteria they used while making the list. Ask why their criteria are the most important one.

If the group is similar and the clash doesn't happen naturally ask the group to turn their list around and find arguments why the person who was last in the list should be the first instead.

### C. Preparation

- Read the dilemmas and choose the one that fits the target group and time frame better.
- Prepare slides where you have all the characters or make sure that you have a flip board on which you can draw your story and the characters.
- Think about different criteria and lists and arguments to make against or in defence of all the characters.

### D. Hints

- be ready to solve potentially strong clashes and groups being unable to compromise.
- be ready to propose clashes flip the lists if the students have similar understandings of the morality.

### E. Verification

- What can trainer do to conclude the lesson (possibly model questions for conclusions) and particular activities?
    - Why was it difficult/easy to find a compromise?
    - How to find the hidden criteria?
  - What should every trainer do to learn from the lesson for the future:
    - What activity/example/discussion produce best results at this lesson?
    - What was the biggest problem during the lesson? How can I avoid/prevent it in future?
    - Did I avoid/prevent the biggest problem which occurred the last time? If no, why?
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**F. Theory – if there is no good chapter in already existing materials – add the chapter under the lesson plan in the same document**

The story “ The Alligator River ”

Once upon a time, there was a woman named Anna who was madly in love with a guy named George. George lived on one side of the river and Anna lived on the other. The river which separated the lovers was home to a lot of hungry man-eating alligators. Anna was desperate to get across the river in order to be together with her dearest George. Unfortunately, the only bridge over the river had completely broken during the previous night during a storm.

Because of that Anna went to see Hubert who was the only person in the area who owned a boat and asked whether he could take her across the river on his boat. Hubert happily agreed to do that on the condition that Anna would spend an intimate night with him before taking her across the river.

Anna immediately refused and went to see her great friend John to share her burden and to try to come up with a solution together. Ivan, however, wanted to have nothing to do with the whole situation and did not help Anna. Anna was losing all hope and felt that her only choice is to accept Hubert’s condition. Hubert fulfilled his promise and took Anna across the river after spending the night together.

After Anna had told George what she had to do to get across the river George felt disgusted and immediately ended the relationship. Heartbroken and deserted, Anna goes to see George’s friend Siim to tell him her sad story. Siim who feels sorry for Anna goes and finds George and brutally beats him up. Anna is happy to see that George received his deserved punishment. As the sun sets over the village we can hear Anna laughing.

In some versions, you can also try making Ivan Anna’s father and Siim the best of George.

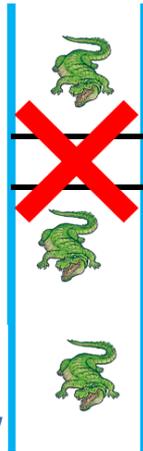
IVAN



ANNA



HUBERT



GEORG



SIIM







