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Truth, Ethics, and Me Essay

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The meaning of truth has always held value to the way I have lived my life. Truthfulness builds relationships, develops personal and professional decisions, and is the value that has formed the foundation of my ethical code. For as long as I can remember, my childhood has taught me to always be truthful no matter what the situation. This has helped guide me into building my decision on the importance of being truthful. This also developed my reasoning to justifying what truth means in the public relations profession. I have always planned to live up to this standard I have created by; following the ethical code I developed as a child, knowing the importance of being transparent in the public relations profession, always telling the truth as best as I know with the facts given to me, and by benefiting society by telling the truth at all times. I plan to live by my definition of truth, and to stand firm by my personal and professional values based on my ethical code.

Truth to me is telling the facts, as I know it, being honest, not deceptive and to always be transparent. I learned at a young age what the meaning of truth was. Once when I was ten years old, I was running late and missed the school bus. I then made the poor decision in agreeing to let a stranger take me to school that drove past me as I was walking to my house and crying. Once I got home later that day my parents sat me down, and then asked how I got to school? As a ten-year-old girl afraid of her parents, I lied and said I had taken the bus. They went on and explained that they thought I was missing for half of the day. She said she got a call from the bus driver, and the school saying that they had not seen me today, and that a neighbor told my mom she saw me get into a car with a strange woman she had never seen. My mother thought I was missing for hours until the school called her back saying I had gotten to school. After all the anxiety I had put my parents through they grounded me for not getting in a car with a stranger but for lying to them. I got lectured on how important it was to always tell the truth no matter what the circumstances. My parents explained that even if I were going to get into trouble, telling the truth was always the right thing to do. From that moment on, I would tell the truth every moment I could. Even if they didn’t ask, I would tell them because acknowledging the importance of truth left a mark on me that I would never forget. This incident in my childhood is just one of the many minimal examples that shaped my beliefs and ethical foundation of the meaning of truth. Learning the importance of truth at such a young age has allowed me to explore what the truth can do, and why it is so important and respected. This moment was when I began to determine my own meaning of truth and the reasoning to why it was important to tell the truth. Taking into account what I have learned, I plan to implement my ethics code into my profession.

Public relations’ is based on the ethical and moral foundation of the truth. It is crucial for public relations professionals to be honest and transparent with clients, co-workers, friends, family and most importantly the public. Public relations professionals are hired to communicate and build relationships between their clients and the public. Creating relationships between the two cannot be sustainable and successful without honesty. Public relations professions must always be transparent as possible, be willing to always do what’s best for the company, and to always be upfront and truthful first. In my profession, we are considered to have the reputation of spinning information and withholding the truth, which is not true. We are there to do what is best for the company and our client, to always be transparent and to make the most right decision for the client. Truth telling is an ethical dilemma that public relations professionals are faced with on a daily basis. Being truthful is the fundamental ethical issue that always occurs in the public relations industry and is an important principle to value in the public relations profession.

Even though I could run into a few ethical dilemmas throughout my career, it is surely attainable to tell the truth in public relations. I strive to do the best that I can, to always be truthful to the best of my abilities, and to do as much as I can with the information given to me. It is achievable to be transparent with your client and the publics, but at times can mislead to ethical dilemmas that can be difficult to overcome. In my opinion, telling the truth would be a manageable solution to many problems in the public relations industry. Sharing all the information that I would know first thing, would allow the company and I to be one step closer to fixing the problem and moving on. Lying to my parents and getting taught about the importance of telling the truth built the foundation to my beliefs on truth and expanded in my profession. I would be living my ethical code through my work to see if the company I worked for had the same ethical standpoints on the importance of truth. If I worked for a company that asked me to lie and not be transparent through my work, I wouldn’t be able to work with that company. I do believe and follow my ethical code very strongly. Ethically, I don’t agree with companies that use spin and lie. I would want to work for an organization that was always truthful and overall holds the same ethical code and beliefs as I did. Being truthful and transparent is an attainable goal in public relations.

Society takes truth very seriously. People hold the uttermost respect for other people and companies that are always being transparent and truthful with their everyday lives and through their work. President Bill Clinton lost all respect from the Unites States due to his dishonesty. His dishonesty resulted in leaving office. Within our society and in public relations we are expected to always tell the truth. Stated directly from philosopher Immanuel Kant in that he believed we are all as a society obligated to tell the truth at all times as a sense of duty. He believed that everyone had to uphold his or her duty, and to always be truthful. We expect people to always tell the truth but not everyone lives by this. The expectations we are held to in our society to always tell the truth are not typically lived by. I think truth is based on the individual level and is held to the individual’s responsibility to decide to be truthful. The individual would have to live up to the economical values and decide whether or not they wanted to live by the philosophy demonstrated by Kant.

Truth is never overrated. Truth is a value in life that I have chose to live by, and I have chosen to live by my ethical code of telling the truth since I was a young child. Telling lies is upsetting and hurts, leaving an ache in the pit of your stomach of worry and regret. People are raised to know what right vs. wrong is, I was taught to never lie and never cheat like many others were, but it is also morally and ethically the right thing to do. In situations that I have told lies, most of them had ended horribly. Many times, being untruthful results in a horrible outcome. Such as Bill Clinton when he cheated on his wife, and created a great scandal about lying to everyone about his actions. If he would have just been truthful from the start all the respect lost and hatred appointed to Clinton would have not been as dramatic and would have eventually dwindled down overtime. If Bill Clinton had stuck to Immanuel Kant’s philosophy he would not have been in as bad of a situation. My ethical code was built around always telling the truth like philosopher Kant recommended, and has proven to me thus far in my career that if I live by these ideals, I will have more positive outcomes. I know that telling the truth no matter the situation will always put you on the right track, and I have 22 years of my life to prove this.

Throughout my life I have learned that truthfulness builds relationships, develops personal and professional decisions, and is the value that has formed the foundation of my ethical code. I believe the power of truth has prepared me to know how important it is in my profession to be truthful from the start and to be transparent. Public relations professionals have a duty to their clients to always be truthful just like Immanuel Kant argues that we the people in our society have the obligation to one another to always be truthful. Both of these philosophies can be attainable by always giving your best to deliver the most truthful information with the facts given to you. I think you must learn to always tell the truth as your duty to benefit the core of society. I have formed an ethical code with one of which being the importance of telling truth that I am eager to know so that I am prepared to make all the important decision in my life. From my personal experience telling the truth is always the best answer, and will always lead you to a better outcome. I believe in honesty and telling the truth very strongly, hoping that it will better my personal and professional decisions in the future. I plan to live by my definition of truth, and to stand firm by my personal and professional values based on my ethical code.