

CONSULT APPROACH

(e.g. Daniel Kahneman, Robert Prentice)

“GETTING OTHER PERSPECTIVES”

Focuses on consulting with others to see diverse perspectives and avoid harmful biases (e.g. self-serving bias, conformity bias). Doing the right thing involves consulting with others who are trustworthy. What’s right is to get beyond our own limited thinking and see other reasonable viewpoints.

QUESTIONS?

ASK YOURSELF:

Who will help me avoid harmful biases?

Who will help me to consider diverse perspectives?

SAYINGS

ASSOCIATED WITH THIS APPROACH:

“Learn from the mistakes of others.
You don’t have time to make them all yourself”

“Many receive advice, only the wise profit from it”

“Sometimes you need to look at life from
a different perspective”

PROS +

OTHER PERSPECTIVES. Can help us see diverse perspectives more clearly.

At first, you think that by saying to a person of color “I don’t see color. We are all the same!” you are showing that you care most about personal characteristics. However, after consulting with a mentor you see that this statement ignores something very important about that person.

AVOID BIASES. Can help us avoid our own harmful biases, including self-deception.

At first you think you can be an objective judge at a talent show where your best friend is competing. After consulting with another friend you realize that you are fooling yourself and that you would have been a biased judge.

CONS -

OTHERS’ BIASES. Others have harmful biases as well.

You consult with a friend/mentor about how to distribute funding for various organizations in a fair/just way. You do not realize this friend/mentor has negative feelings about certain groups of people (e.g. people with disabilities, transgender people, people from certain religious groups, etc.)

IMPLEMENTATION. How many perspectives should we consider and what happens when they conflict?

You have time to consult with two trusted mentors about how to distribute funding for various organizations in a fair/just way. One says “split the funds equally across the 5 organizations”. The other says “give at least some funding to all 5 organizations, but more to organizations A and B since they have had less support in the past”.

CONCLUSION

This is an important way to check our own decision-making. It is an essential component of WeTake5.com’s “5Cs” pluralistic approach to ethical decision-making.