

IE 380
The Responsible Engineer
Discussion Questions for
Chapter 6, Workplace Responsibilities and Rights

Martin, M.W. & R. Schinzinger. *Ethics in Engineering*, fourth edition. Boston: McGraw Hill, 2005.

Answer the following questions. Questions in **boldface** are required; the others are optional.

1. Based on your reading and discussion this term, (re-) define responsibility, especially with respect to moral responsibility in the workplace.
 2. **How could you go about creating an ethical "corporate" climate for your Capstone engineering design (senior project) team?**
 3. What does it mean to say that loyalty is a *dependent* virtue? Are there other dependent virtues? If so, what are they?
 4. Why should you, as a student or as an engineer employee, respect authority? In any case, does our society make respect for authority easy or difficult? Explain.
 5. Would you rather work for an engineer-oriented company, a customer-oriented company, or a finance-oriented company -- or does it matter to you? Explain.
 6. How can conflict be good for an organization?
 7. **Would it be right for your employer to set up your contract so as to place restrictions on future employment when you leave the company? Why or why not? If so, what restrictions would be appropriate?**
 8. **Define a *professional conflict of interest* based on the concept of responsibility as you define it. How would the responsible engineer view each of the three types of conflict of interest described on pp. 159-161?**
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9. The authors say that "[e]ngineers have several types of moral rights ..." on p. 163. What are those rights? Do engineers *truly* have those rights? Explain.
 10. **This chapter is about the engineer's rights and responsibilities. Based on your worldview and with your definition of responsibility in mind, which is more important, rights or responsibilities? Explain.**
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11. What is *whistle blowing*?
 12. Based on your own personal moral principles, under what conditions should you blow the whistle on your employer?
 13. If you did blow the whistle on your employer, what consequences would you expect?
 14. Should our society do anything to mitigate the undesirable consequences of whistle-blowing?