Checklist: Resolving Classroom Dilemmas with Integrity in Introduction to Business

This checklist provides Introduction to Business instructors with strategies to identify, address, and resolve ethical dilemmas encountered in the classroom. Each dilemma includes a thoughtful resolution and outlines potential consequences to guide more ethical, inclusive, and socially responsible teaching practices.

Dilemma: Teaching Business Strategies That Are Legal but Unethical

☐ Resolution: Teach within an ethical framework, emphasizing long-term risks and alternative approaches.

☐ Consequences: Encourages critical thinking but may foster caution that conflicts with risk-tolerant business cultures.

Dilemma: Pressure to Inflate Grades Due to Student Expectations

☐ Resolution: Maintain consistent grading standards with clear, constructive feedback.

☐ Consequences: Fosters academic rigor but may reduce student satisfaction or trigger administrative pressure.

Dilemma: Using Real-World Case Studies That Feature Ethical Violations

☐ Resolution: Use for ethical analysis and discussion of alternative, ethical responses.

☐ Consequences: Teaches long-term impacts but may raise discomfort about future industry choices.

Dilemma: Balancing Corporate Sponsorship and Academic Integrity

☐ Resolution: Disclose sponsorships and use multiple sources to balance perspectives.

☐ Consequences: Preserves integrity but may limit funding opportunities.

Dilemma: Promoting Specific Business Models or Practices

☐ Resolution: Explore diverse business models, including stakeholder and social enterprise theories.

☐ Consequences: Fosters critical awareness but may challenge conventional business norms.

Dilemma: Favoritism and Fairness in Group Projects

☐ Resolution: Use rubrics and peer evaluations; rotate group roles.

☐ Consequences: Promotes fairness but peer evaluations may introduce new biases.

Dilemma: Balancing Profit-Driven Curriculum with Social Responsibility

☐ Resolution: Integrate CSR, ethics, and sustainability alongside profit-focused lessons.

☐ Consequences: Develops holistic understanding, though may seem idealistic in cutthroat environments.

Dilemma: Incorporating Emerging Technologies and Student Privacy

☐ Resolution: Use tech responsibly with transparency and consent.

☐ Consequences: Enhances personalization but may raise privacy concerns among students.

Dilemma: Conflict of Interest in Providing Industry Connections

☐ Resolution: Disclose connections and ensure opportunities are merit-based.

☐ Consequences: Promotes fairness but may strain relationships with industry partners.

Dilemma: Encouraging Unpaid Internships

☐ Resolution: Advocate for paid opportunities and offer alternatives.

☐ Consequences: Supports equity but may reduce access to industries reliant on unpaid internships.

Dilemma: Teaching About Profit-Driven Companies with Harmful Practices

☐ Resolution: Use as case studies for ethical critique and discussion.

☐ Consequences: Fosters ethical scrutiny but may clash with admiration for financial success.

Dilemma: Promoting Overwork as a Path to Success

☐ Resolution: Teach productivity and time management alongside well-being.

☐ Consequences: Promotes balance, though may conflict with hustle culture ideals.

Dilemma: Ignoring Mental Health in the Business Environment

☐ Resolution: Include mental health and emotional intelligence in the curriculum.

☐ Consequences: Prepares students for real-world stressors but may require cultural shifts.

Dilemma: Promoting One-Size-Fits-All Career Advice

☐ Resolution: Provide personalized guidance that includes non-traditional paths.

☐ Consequences: Supports diverse ambitions but increases instructor workload.

By proactively addressing these ethical dilemmas, instructors can create a more inclusive, fair, and ethically grounded Introduction to Business course. Modeling ethical leadership and critical thinking in the classroom helps prepare students to navigate the complex moral terrain of the business world.