Line- Drawing Problems

A Method for Evaluating a “Test Case” With Respect to a Spectrum of Cases

Method of Casuistry/Line-Drawing

Compare the Test Case (a case that you don't know how to classify) to Paradigm Case(s) (cases you can classify with confidence)

Method helps with
• application issues
• conceptual issues
• Moral issues in the narrow sense

1. State problem as an “or” question.
-- Is this trip to Jamaica a bribe or not?
-- Is this trip a case of bribery or a morally unproblematic gift?

2. Set up paradigms
   a. Set up ends of spectrum:
      - Positive Paradigm: case that is clearly okay
      - Negative Paradigm: case that is clearly not okay
      -- look at “or” question

   b. List good-making features of Positive Paradigm
      (e.g. “costs $1)
      * Thinking of examples can help

   c. List corresponding bad-making features of Negative Paradigm
      (e.g. “costs $2,000”)

   d. Label each category of features.
      (“Gift Size”)

3. Compare paradigms with Test Case on each of the features

4. Mark which features are the most important

5. Judge which paradigm Test Case is more similar to.

6. State Conclusion:
   e.g. trip is/ is not a case of bribery

Case with an application issue:

• Denise is an engineer at a large construction firm. It is her job to specify rivets for the construction of a large apartment building. After some research and testing, she decides to use ACME rivets for the job. On the day after she orders the rivets, an ACME representative visits her and gives her a voucher for an all-expenses-paid trip to the ACME Technical Forum in Jamaica. The 4-day trip will include 18 classroom hours and a day-long tour of the coastline. Does this trip fall under the category of bribery?
1. Is the trip to Jamaica a bribe?

2. Is accepting the trip to Jamaica morally permissible?

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<tr>
<th>Features</th>
<th>Positive Paradigm</th>
<th>Test Case</th>
<th>Negative Paradigm</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gift size</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
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<td>$5,000</td>
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<td>Timing</td>
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<td>Product</td>
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