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DEVELOPMENTAL STAGES OF EXAMINING VALUES IN DECISION MAKING

Examining Values in Decision Making - observing carefully and critically the principles, standards, or qualities considered worthwhile or desirable that are present in a decision or dilemma. Ability in valuing is shown by recognizing and describing values that arise in the content or methods of a subject area, by identifying the ways these values relate to academic or public discussions of contemporary issues, and by articulating and evaluating the reasons and justifications that support particular values.

Stage 1

- Identify, understand, and begin to use basic vocabulary of valuing and decision-making (e.g., value, value indicator, value judgment, value conflict, prioritizing of values, value system, moral decision-making)
- Formulate one's own values
- For each of the values identified, indicate the sources which have contributed to its development (e.g., family, religion, education, personal experience)
- Prioritize one's values

Stage 2

- Identify the value content of a work in the arts or humanities
- Identify and support by examples the value-orientation of the work as a whole as well as of its components
- Relate the values inferred from the work to the historical and cultural content of the work
- Explain the criteria by which one made judgments about the values identified in the work and in the culture
- Compare the values identified in the work with one's own values

Stage 3

- Identify specific scientific and technological developments and identify the problems they pose for societal and individual values
- Identify the values out of which specific scientific developments have arisen
- Recognize value expressions and value judgments (explicit and implicit) in scientific and technological works
- Predict and evaluate social consequences (in terms of changing societal values) of proposed technological change
- Formulate alternative courses of action to specific proposed changes, making explicit the values underlying each alternative
- Make and substantiate value judgments regarding technological change
- Analyze value conflict within own value system and in broader societal context

Stage 4

- Formulate the problem and describe the context of decisions to be made
- Identify one's goal(s) and the values underlying it
- Identify the obstacles to one's goal(s) and the values underlying them
- Generate several realistic alternative methods of achieving the goal
- Predict the consequences of each of the alternatives
- List the resources available to achieve each alternative
- Identify and rank order one's values; draw the implications for each value of each of the alternatives
- Accept one alternative and design a plan of achievement
- Provide for overcoming or minimizing obstacles in implementation of plan
- Review and evaluate one's own decision-making behavior