

advance in formulating a specifically feminist account of virtue ethics (p. 229).

For Aristotle, gaining access to ethical ideas and thought is dependent on an upbringing that teaches and fosters maturity and growth and brings about the right habits and character (Darwall 1998: 214). An upbringing and education of this kind is necessary for a person to develop emotional and cognitive knowledge that may lead to the acquisition of ethical knowledge. It follows, then, that ethical knowledge may not be available to everyone and that ultimately judgment and wisdom result from maturity, growth, nurturing, and applying the wisdom of earlier generations. This view of ethics stands in complete contrast to the views argued by Mill and

APPLYING VIRTUE THEORY

Kant, which are law based. Aristotle's account of ethics differs in that it is based on a series of virtues that we practice. It follows that the demand judgment. It follows that the virtues requires a capacity to judge and the right thing in the right place at the right time and the exercise of the virtues does not constitute an application of a routine way (MacIntyre 1984: 150).

Case Study 14.1 illustrates how virtue theory is applied to an ethical dilemma within the justice system.

Case Study 14.1 Profiling in the Neighborhood

Rodney is a rookie police officer assigned to a mainly white, middle-class neighborhood. On a night shift, Rodney and his partner Max, a more senior officer, are patrolling the neighborhood. Max says, "Hey, look at that kid. He doesn't belong here. Let's question him." Rodney stops the car, and he and Max get out and approach the boy, asking him for his identification. The boy does not respond, and Max just searches him and then arrests him. Later that night, Max tells Rodney that the boy "pissed him off" with his attitude. He tells Rodney to write a report of the incident and charge the boy with loitering.

SOURCE: Adapted from Goodman 1998: 59.

In resolving what may be an ethical dilemma, Rodney will follow the process of resolving an ethical dilemma set out in Chapter 1.

1. Is Rodney faced with an ethical dilemma?

Rodney is faced with the dilemma of whether or not to write a report about the incident when he knows that he is being asked to write a false report and to bring a false charge based on a false arrest.

2. What are the facts and circumstances of the incident?

Rodney needs to review in his mind the facts and circumstances of the stop and arrest and perhaps

what are the values of his workplace? What are his own values about the incident? What are the facts relevant to the decision? What are his own values about the incident? What are the facts relevant to the decision? What are his own values about the incident?

write them down in the form of a report. Rodney and his partner stopped the boy on foot in a white, middle-class neighborhood; he was questioned and provided identification but protested being stopped. Rodney and Max had no basis for stopping the boy, and Max admitted to Rodney that he was