

## Quick Reference Guide to the 2024-2025 High School Ethics Bowl Cases

*Note: These brief summaries offer a quick reference for teams but do not capture all details or ethical complexities of the cases.*

### **1. This Used to Be My Home:** Effects of foreign tourism

There are tensions between the economic benefits of tourism and its potential negative impact on countries' local cultures and economic independence.

### **2. A Dear Confidant:** "Emotional cheating"

Rowan is conflicted about his emotional connection with and attraction to his friend Gwen, despite both being in committed monogamous relationships. He feels guilty about his relationship with Gwen, worrying it may constitute "emotional cheating."

### **3. It Tastes Like Dog Food:** Imposing a vegan diet on a dog

Selena, a vegan, feeds her dog a vegan diet, but her friend Dorian argues this diet is unnatural and inadequate for a dog's nutritional needs. Selena worries that her commitment to veganism may conflict with providing her dog the best care.

### **4. Why Argue?:** Confronting family members over objectionable beliefs

Oscar argues with his uncle over sexist remarks made in front of Oscar's younger sisters. Oscar believes it was necessary to confront his uncle to challenge harmful beliefs and set an example for his sisters, but his father believes that arguing is ineffective and suggests building trust instead to create openness for change.

### **5. R U Kidneying Me? The Bad Art Friend:** Using real-life stories in fiction

Dawn Dorland donated a kidney to a stranger and shared her experience in a Facebook group, where Sonya Larson was a member. Later, Dorland accused Larson of plagiarizing Dorland's donation story for a fictional piece.

### **6. Don't Worry, It Doesn't Have Alcohol:** Children drinking mocktails

The rise in popularity of non-alcoholic (n/a) drinks raises concerns about whether it is appropriate for children to consume beverages that mimic alcoholic ones.

### **7. Infographic Activism:** Social media activism

Sarah is conflicted about posting on Instagram about a recent hate crime, concerned that doing so might be performative. Despite agreeing with her friends' outrage and planning to attend a protest, she worries about spreading misinformation and overshadowing genuine activism.

### **8. A Killer Dilemma:** Confessing to a long-past crime

Shirley, who accidentally killed her sister thirty years ago and feels deep remorse, considers confessing. She worries it may cause her family more pain and questions whether her current guilt and possible punishment hold ethical value.

### **9. Parents Out of Bounds:** Young children in competitive sports

Starting children in competitive sports at a young age can lead to significant success, but it also raises concerns about potential mental and physical harm. There is also debate about whether parents should decide what activities their children participate in.

### **10. Work to Live or Live to Work?:** Work-Life Balance

Jenny's choice to prioritize work over volunteering for her child's field day highlights the challenge of balancing career and personal life. There's debate on whether reducing working hours could enhance well-being and productivity, even though not all jobs can cut hours, and many people find satisfaction in their work.

### **11. Oh Boycott:** Boycotting companies

Douglas boycotts Chick-Fil-A and Starbucks for their ethical issues, while Jean only considers boycotting Starbucks, citing a difference between protesting CEOs' statements and protesting business practices.

### **12. Controversy on the World Stage:** Hosting international sporting events

Before the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, allegations of forced labor and anti-LGBTQ+ attitudes sparked calls for a boycott. Debate continues over whether hosting in controversial nations endorses their practices or provides a platform to challenge them.

### **13. The Lesser of Two Evils:** Voting for Third Party Candidates

Renee faces a dilemma between voting for a third-party candidate who aligns with her values and pressure from friends who view such a vote as a "waste" in a highly consequential election.

### **14. My Pal, HAL:** AI Companions

The rise of AI companions, which simulate realistic social interactions, offers new ways to ease loneliness but raises concerns about emotional manipulation, misinformation, and harm to social skills.

### **15. Braking on Big Brother:** Car Data and Privacy Concerns

As technology advances in cars, automakers are increasingly selling detailed driving data to brokers like LexisNexis, which in turn influences insurance rates. This practice has led to calls for regulatory action to protect consumer data from being exploited for profit.