

Middle School Lesson Plan

Teachers should use this lesson plan to teach students about natural law theory. Students will examine some ethical cases and determine what is ethical and moral.

Learning Objectives

After completing this lesson, students will be able to:

- Explain natural law theory using content-specific vocabulary
- Describe opposition to natural law
- Examine cases to determine application of natural law

Length

45 minutes

Vocabulary

double effect

ethical dilemmas

basic goods

human nature

just war doctrine

law

morality

natural law

Materials

Copies of the lesson

[Crash course in Natural Law Video](#)

News Paper

Pens

Access to computer/internet/printer

Lesson Plan

- Play game or do a meditation (See separate resources)
- Watch the video ([Crash course in Natural Law](#)).
- Ask the following question:
 - What does a natural law theorist believe?
 - Have students turn and talk to their neighbour and address the question.
“Do you subscribe to natural law theory?
Why or why not?”
- Create glossary of terms related to Natural Law. Discuss and create class definitions for each word.
- Examples of Natural Law

Divide students into pairs.

- a. Have each pair locate an example of an ethical dilemma from a news source. Track which story

each pair has chosen to prevent multiple groups from choosing the same story.

b. Have the pair write a reflection that includes the following:

- What is the ethical dilemma?
- According to natural law, what is the solution?
- What do the students think the ethical solution to this problem is? Why?

Have each pair present their finished reflection papers to the class. After each presentation, have a discussion about the positive and negative aspects of each of these solutions.