Ethics are moral principles that regulate a person's behavior. When I was little my parents taught me that it is wrong to lie, steal, and cheat. It was easy to see what was right or wrong, but now that I'm older it doesn't always seem so black and white. Although these decisions are sometimes hard to make, I have found that the ethical choice is better for me personally and for our community.

For example, when I was in 8th grade, I went with a friend off campus to CVS. We went into the store and I asked if she brought any money with her and she said no. We continued to walk around the store until we came to the candy aisle, which is when I saw her taking candy and putting it in her pockets. I chose not to say anything because I felt nervous about it, but when we went back to school I came to the conclusion that I should say something because stealing is wrong. Stealing hurts the business and can cause increased prices. I decided to go to my counselor and explain what happened. This was a very tough decision for me because I knew my friend could get in trouble and might be mad at me, but morally, I felt it was the right thing to do.

Later when I talked to my friend, she asked if I was the one that snitched and I admitted that I was. Another student who was listening in said I was not “chill” but my friend ended up forgiving me. I look back now and think about how I could have handled it differently, by telling her at the store to put the items back, but I feel better knowing that I did the right thing in the end even when other kids thought it wasn’t cool. Looking at it from a broader perspective, stealing hurts business and the community so making the ethical choice was the right decision.