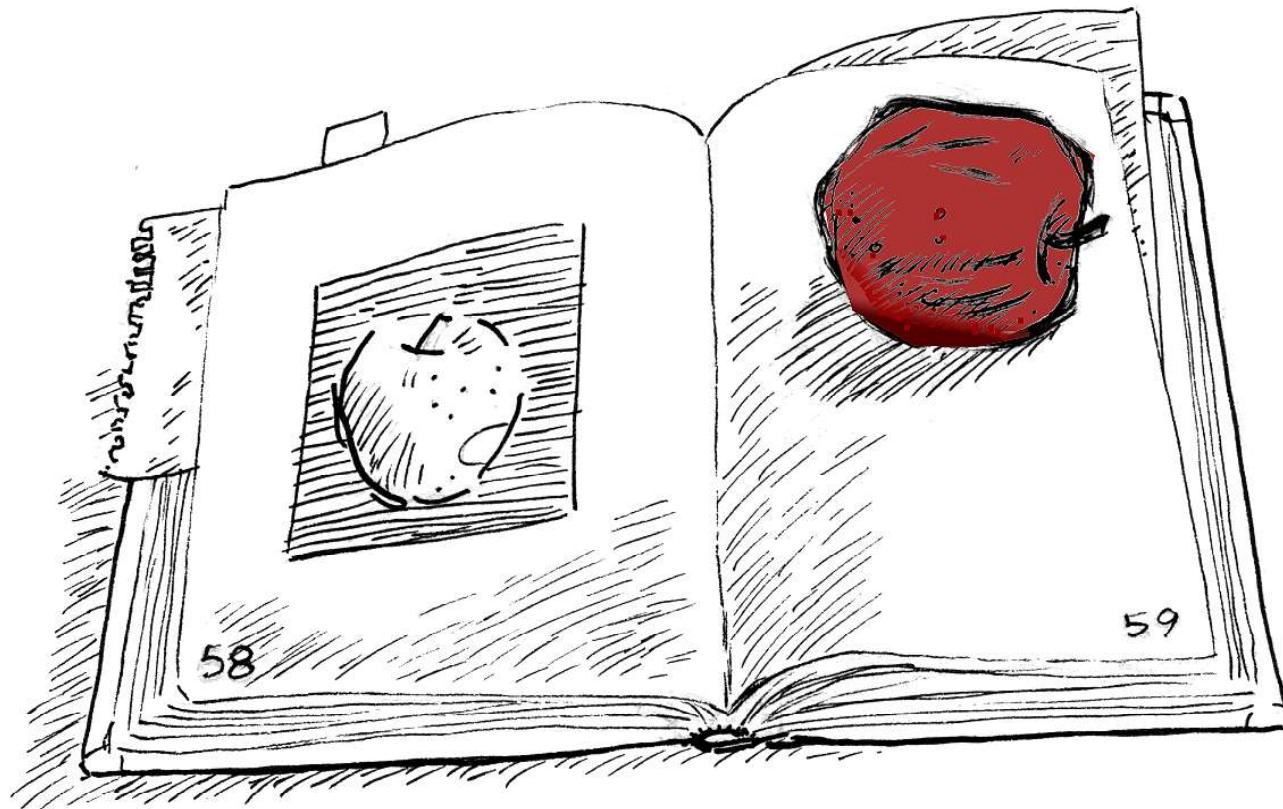


# Personal Values

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# *Personal Values*

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## **What is a value?**

- Values are those inner standards from which you receive the motivation to act as you do and by which you judge behavior (both yours and others).
- Likewise, values signify what is important and worthwhile.
- They serve as **the basis for moral codes** and **ethical reflection**.

# *Personal Values*

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**Individuals have their own values** based on many aspects including:

family

race

religion

social background

peers

gender

culture

sexual identity

- > all of these end up to be components of a self-defined community, where you feel you belong, aspects of your own definition of self
- > values guide individuals, professions, communities, and institutions.
- > values likewise are what politicians try to maintain as they serve the voting community.

# Personal Values

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## Seven Important Facts about Values

1. **A value must be chosen freely.** If you don't cheat because someone tells you not to, or because you know you will get into trouble with some authority figure, say, you are not freely acting on your values of honesty and integrity.
2. **A value is always chosen from among alternatives.** If you don't cheat because you are taking a test in an empty room without any resources, you cannot say you chose not to cheat. There must always be an alternative in choosing your value.
3. **A value results from a choice made after thoughtful consideration of choices.** If you do not cheat because it never occurred to you to do otherwise, there is no value at play. If you cheat thoughtlessly or carelessly, this also does not reflect a value. Only when you carefully consider alternatives and consequences and then make a choice is value reflected in that decision.

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Adapted from materials found on: <http://www.mtsu.edu/~u101irm/valuedef.html>

# Personal Values

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4. **When you value something, it has a positive quality for you.**

You like yourself for your honesty and integrity. You prize these qualities and cherish them in yourself.

5. **You are willing to publicly stand by your values.** Not only are you proud of your choices, you will speak about your position and try to convince others. You declare in your actions and your words that you value honesty and integrity.

6. **When you have a value, it shows up in every aspect of your life.**

You will spend time and energy on developing your honesty and integrity. Most importantly, you associate with people who also value honesty and integrity. You will make sacrifices to live by your values.

7. **Values show up again and again in your actions.** Not cheating on one thing does not mean you hold a value. Only when you make the same kind of choices over and over again in similar circumstances is value at play. Because of your honesty and integrity, you don't cheat on anything.