

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Values Conflicts Case Studies



**Introduction:** It is not always easy to act in a way that is in keeping with all of your values. A values conflict occurs when two or more opposing values force a person to make a decision that goes against one of the values.

**Directions:**

1. Read the case studies (examples of values conflicts) and answer the questions.
2. Discuss your answers to these questions with your classmates and your career specialist.
3. Can you think of a time (either past or present) when your values have been in conflict? How did you resolve it? Did you have other choices? What were they?

Example #1

A young woman has been taught by her parents that she must only date men of her own religion. She meets and finds herself very attracted to a man of another faith. She is caught in a values conflict and must decide what to do. She thinks about the choices and their possible results. One thing she can do is to give him up and then, perhaps, feel resentment toward her parents. She can also date him secretly and feel guilty, or she can date him openly and risk the anger of her parents. What choice would you advise this young woman to make? Once she has chosen, how will she have to act? What consequences will she have to face? In answering these questions, how did your own values affect your advice? Why did you choose the solution you did?

Example #2

A young man has always been taught that money is the most important thing. He has grown up believing that money makes you respectable, provides security, and draws a better class of people to you as friends and, in general, makes life easier and more pleasant. That same young man gets a summer job working in a day care center and discovers he likes working with small children. After investigating a career in day care he discovers that the salaries of day care workers, or even pre-school teachers, are quite low. What should he do? Why?

Example #3

A young woman loves children, wants some of her own someday, but has always wanted to work and always has. During a recent lay-off period she discovered that she was miserable and felt useless when she had to stay home. She felt very non-productive and as if her self-esteem had diminished because she wasn't working and using her talents. Now she's faced with the question of children. Should she or shouldn't she have them? If she does, should she stay home? She grew up thinking that a good mother stays home. But she does not like staying at home. What should she do? Why?