1. **Identify the ethical dilemma that the teacher must resolve.**
   a. You are out socially with some colleagues from school having cocktails. Unaware that a student is in the same restaurant watching you, you continue to ENJOY your evening. The following Monday at school, the student approaches you and says he saw you Friday night. He says “I saw you drinking. I didn’t think teachers did that.” How do you address the student?

2. **Specify the specific standard(s) in the Texas Code of Ethics to which this dilemma relates.**
   a. **Standard 1.1.** The educator shall not knowingly engage in deceptive practices regarding official policies of the school district or educational institution.
   b. **Standard 1.2.** The educator shall not knowingly misappropriate, divert or use monies, personnel, property or equipment committed to his or her charge for personal gain or advantage.
   c. **Standard 1.3.** The educator shall not submit fraudulent requests for reimbursement, expenses or pay.
   d. **Standard 1.6.** The educator shall not falsify records, or direct or coerce others to do so.
   e. **Standard 1.7.** The educator shall comply with state regulations, written local school board policies and other applicable state and federal laws.
   f. **Standard 2.6.** The educator shall not use coercive means or promise of special treatment in order to influence professional decisions or colleagues.
   g. **Standard 3.2.** The educator shall not knowingly treat a student in a manner that adversely affects the student's learning, physical health, mental health or safety.

3. **Identify the ethically relevant issue(s) to which the ethical dilemma related.**
   a. District policy.
   b. Job security.
   c. Misrepresenting the school.
      i. Community
      ii. Parents
      iii. Students
      iv. School
   d. Promoting drinking (that it is ok to drink).
   e. Negatively influencing the students.

4. **Identify all persons or groups that need to be considered.**
   a. Myself
   b. Student
   c. Parents
   d. Community
   e. District
      i. Principal
      ii. Other students
      iii. Colleagues
5. **Identify what information – or additional information – you need to be fully informed.**
   a. Was it a faculty meeting? (School related)
   b. Drinks after a game?
   c. Was it being paid by school funds?
   d. How drunk were they?
   e. Were the teachers loud, belligerent, and/or inappropriate?
   f. What grade level is the student?
   g. What is the student’s attitude towards the teacher drinking?
   h. Did the student tell his parents?
   i. Has the administration already been notified?
   j. Has the other colleagues been questioned?
   k. Who were the other colleagues?
   l. Is it on the internet yet? (MySpace, face book)
   m. Did the students capture any media? Example: Video, picture

6. **Develop several possible courses of action or alternatives. (two or three)**
   a. **Option 1:** After the child makes the statement about her drinking, she tells the child that she will discuss it later with them privately. She will then conference with the other colleagues.

   b. **Option 2:** Deny the fact that it was you and tell the child that they must have mistaken you for someone else.

7. **For each alternative, identify the following:**
   a. **Option 1:** After the child makes the statement about her drinking, she tells the child that she will discuss it later with them privately, and then she will conference with the other colleagues.

      i. **Short-term consequences:**
         1. **Negative:** Teacher anxiety, teacher reputation, butterflies in your stomach, district reprimand
         2. **Positive:** Teacher owning up to actions

      ii. **On-going consequences:**
         1. **Negative:** rumor, relationship with student, parents, co-workers
         2. **Positive:** Discussing the responsibilities of drinking, having designated drivers.

      iii. **Long-term consequences:**
         1. **Negative:** stigma, rumor, how did it effect the student, anxiety and lost respect
         2. **Positive:** Building trust with the student by owning up

   iv. **Psychological costs:** Student might think they did something wrong, teacher is constantly worrying about going out,

   v. **Economic costs:**
      1. Possible loss of pay if suspended or terminated.
      2. Revoking school credit card from teacher.
b. **Option 2:** Deny the fact that it was you and tell the child that they must have mistaken you for someone else.

   i. **Short-term consequences:** Student knows you’re a liar, loss of trust and integrity, pictures on the internet?
   
   ii. **On-going consequences:** Loss of trust and integrity
   
   iii. **Long-term consequences:** Loss of trust and integrity, loss your job?
   
   iv. **Psychological costs:** Guilt.
   
   v. **Economic costs:** Sued, loss of career.

8. **Take action. Identify what action you would take.**
   
a. We decided to go with option one and take responsibility by talking to the student privately and notifying administration and other colleagues.

9. **Evaluate the action of the decision you have made and identify how it conforms to the Texas Code of Ethics.**
   
a. The action reflects the statement of purpose. The Texas educator, in maintaining the dignity of the profession, shall respect and obey the law, demonstrate personal integrity, and exemplify honesty.
   
   i. Because we were “demonstrating personal integrity and exemplifying honesty”.

b. Standard 1.7 The educator shall comply with state regulations, written local school board policies and other applicable state and federal laws.
   
   i. Because we are of age and the teacher is adhering to state laws as in not drinking and driving.

10. **Make a commitment statement that identifies how you will assume responsibility for the consequences of the action you have decided to take.**
    
a. We have decided to speak with the student privately because we realized that it might have had an adverse effect on the student, and explain to the student that it is appropriate for someone of legal drinking age to consume alcohol in the state of Texas when having a designated driver.

11. **List what might be or could be the negative consequences of your action (if applicable)**
    
a. Reputation
   
b. Credibility
   
c. Broken relationship

12. **Develop a plan about how you will make any correction of any negative consequences or wrong decision you may make.**
    
a. Talk to the student.
   
b. Talk to the principal.
   
c. Talk to the consular.
   
d. Talk to the parents.
   
e. Not drink in public places where students and/or family might go.
Crystal Smith Individual Reflection  
Ethical Drinking Dilemma Group Project

1. Reflect over the ethical dilemma selected and a short summary of the decision making process you went through.

   Our group looked over the dilemmas offered and picked our top four choices. All of us were very open to choosing any of the dilemmas that we had selected, so when we got together for the final choice, we decided to pick one that would be fun and interesting. It was a very simple process for our group to choose the night out and drinking dilemma. Ruthann said it could be fun, and the rest of us were in alignment very quickly. The fact that the group was open to taking on any of the dilemmas and making the best of whatever we chose, was in my opinion, the thing one thing that really facilitated a fast and easy choice for us.

2. Include in your reflection the experience in creating the decision tree and its value to the process. (Attach a copy of the decision tree)

   The process of us working as a group and making the decision on how to handle our dilemma was very fun. We laughed and had so much fun, not that the dilemma was not serious, but we had a very good time in working through all the steps necessary to come to our decision. All of us created a safe space and were willing to listen to each other’s ideas in a way that we all felt listened to and appreciated for our input. The fact that we could openly express our ideas made the process very enjoyable, effortless, and effective.

3. Finally, reflect over the group experience and how your group worked as a team. What were the challenges and successes?

   The only challenge that I felt our group encountered was communication after our in person meeting. Although we did eventually communicate, Ruthann had internet issues which
prevented her from accessing email, and Kristina only checked her email after the holidays, so we had a conference call instead. I feel that the lack of urgency in effectively communicating over the holidays could have negatively impacted our group had we not been so cohesive to begin with. I also see how I could have been more proactive before the holidays to ensure we all touched base more often.

Our group worked wonderfully together. I feel that we all felt safe to honestly express our ideas without fear of rejection or criticism. Our group recognized the seriousness of what could happen in this situation, and we discussed how we could potentially avoid this ever happening to us in real life. We also had very similar ideas as how to handle the situation, but with the open space to express our ideas, it was very easy to come to a plausible solution. When I do get the opportunity to work collaboratively with another group of educators, I plan on creating the same safe space and effective leadership that I brought to our group this time. Overall I feel our group was completely successful and I welcome being able to work with them again.