



BY PLAYING THE GAME, WE HOPE THAT STUDENTS WILL GAIN AN UNDERSTANDING OF HOW DIFFICULT IT IS TO RECOGNIZE AND MAKE UNBIASED, ETHICAL DECISIONS IN A COMPLEX SITUATION.

Paper Trail can be used to facilitate discussion or in place of traditional case study analysis. Through the game, students will experience what it's like to make decisions in an authentic, morally tenuous business environment. Similar to discussing an ethics case study, Paper Trail presents an instance of corporate corruption and challenges students to consider how the actors in this case came to their decision, and how they would behave if confronted with a similar situation.

Unlike a traditional case study Paper Trail allows students to directly take part in the ethical case. Throughout the game, the student's decisions are tracked and mapped to the three ethical frameworks. At the end of each act, the student will have the opportunity to choose which moral framework best describes their actions. They will then receive feedback on their actual performance, including instances of biased decision making. By playing the game, we hope that students will gain an understanding of how difficult it is to recognize and make unbiased, ethical decisions in a complex situation. Gaining such an understanding is essential for the practices of moral integrity and ethical behavior.

M.I.S. is a mid-sized company that produces and sells safety equipment used by energy companies. The student plays an "accountability agent" who is tasked with ensuring that corporate policy is maintained across all departments and branches. When reports come in of customer complaints, pushy salesmen, and low-quality products, the student's character is dispatched to investigate. This investigation leads the student down a rabbit hole of cover-ups and corruption that goes far up the company ladder. The student will meet many different characters who have had to make their own difficult ethical decisions along the way. Eventually, the student will discover that they are just as entangled in the company's corruption as everyone else, and must decide how best to mitigate the damage to themselves, the company, its employees, and society at large.

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