

Ted often used “one pagers”—learning activities to prompt discussion of the issue of the day. This one is “Reconciling Conflicting Values in the Academic ‘Rat Race’”

This could also be adapted as a simulated experience.

Description: For faculty and students alike the academic environment is often an arena of conflict. Personal and family responsibilities are pitted against scholarly and professional values. Christian life and testimony are assailed by all sorts of pressures. How do we help students learn to cope? How well do we cope?

Premise: The value of education can be measured in terms of students’ becoming free enough to engage intentionally in the task of expanding their cultural perspectives.

Problem 1: Perpetuated Paternalistic Pressures

“This you should do.	vs	“You are invited to expand your experience.”
“We know best.”	vs	“Shared decisions.”

Problem 2: External Locus of Decision Making

“The requirements.”	vs	“The electives.”
“Coercion”	vs	“The development of responsible initiative”

Problem 3: Insensitivity to Practical Needs

“Assertion of classical claims.”	vs	“Acceptance of students’ purpose.”
(e.g., liberal arts claims vs Bible is enough claims.)		
“Priority on passing tests.”	vs	“Integrated life skills.”

Problem 4: Cultural Narrowness of the Institution

Faculty and often students are very similar.	vs	A culture of deliberate diversity.
Many faculty are not interculturally experienced	vs	Well traveled and experienced.

Problem 5: Incompleteness of the Spiritual Development Model

Overemphasis on academic information.	vs	Centrality of spiritual core (radiating into intellectual, emotional, social, moral, and physical aspects of the person).
Content reduced to rational bits.	vs	Lively and creative spiritual nurturance.