

Suggested Tests for Evaluating Actions

(M. Davis [1997], C. Skooglund, J. Smith, & P. Harper)

Viewers might evaluate character actions by applying the following tests:

Harms Test



Do the benefits outweigh the harms, short term and long term?

Reversibility Test



Would I think this was a good choice if I traded places?

Colleague Test



What would my professional colleagues say?
What does my professional code of ethics say?

Legality Test



Would my choice violate a law or policy of my employer?

Publicity Test



How would my choice look on the front page of tomorrow's newspaper?

Common Practice Test



What if everyone behaved this way?

Wise Relative Test



What would my wise old aunt or uncle do? and/or
Would I want them to know what I'm doing?

The Hiding Test



Do I want people to know what I'm doing?

The Self-Respect Test



How will I feel about myself after making this choice?