

# Definitions/Values Hierarchy Assignment

## Sample

### Argumentation

**Proposition:** Minnie Mouse is a dangerous role model for children.

**Definitions** (2-3 defs from credible sources, 50 pts.):

- **“Dangerous”** – adj. unsafe, hazardous, fraught with risk. It can be negligence for which a lawsuit can be brought if damage results from creating or leaving unguarded a dangerous condition which can cause harm to others, ~~a dangerous instrumentality (any device which can cause harm, including explosives and poisonous substances) or dangerous weapon which is inherently hazardous to anyone handling it or within the weapon's range.~~ (*Legal Dictionary, Law.com*)
- **“Role Model”** -- a person whose behaviour is observed and imitated. (*ITS Psychological Dictionary, ITS Tutorial School Hong Kong, n.d., [www.tuition.com.hk](http://www.tuition.com.hk)*)
- **“Role Model”** – By extension: Halle Berry, Tom Hanks, Britney Spears, Paris Hilton, Mel Gibson (not all are good!)

As Affirmative, I can argue that imitating Minnie Mouse’s behavior is legally risky.

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**Values Hierarchy** (Analyzing three systems, 50 pts.):

- My choices: Moral, Legal, and Progressive Values systems

**Morality:**

- Truth -- We should always tell the truth and believe in the truth; lies are immoral (Catholic Church, Golden Rule, etc.)
- Fairness – Our sense of justice is based on equal chances/opportunities (sports games make sides even, insider trading is condemned because some have unfair advantage)
- Integrity – Being upright and behaviorally honest is rewarded (Tom Hanks and Bill Gates are applauded, corrupt politicians (Tom Delay) are imprisoned)

**Legal:**

- Honest -- Our court systems depend upon truth and honesty. (Oaths to "Tell the Truth.")
- Just -- Prisons punish misbehaviors in balance to the degree of the crime. (Killers are jailed.)
- Principled -- Our legal system is based upon a set of written laws which do not change easily. (Murder is wrong.)

**Progressive:**

- Forward thinking – Doesn’t dwell on past, but might build from it (NASA shuttle program is out-dated, so is cut; we always plan ahead for next stage of our lives)
- Growth/Goal-oriented – Stagnation is condemned so that we can become better (“Where is our relationship *going?*” “When am I going to use this in real life?”)
- Focus on change – Change is almost always better and never feared (Self-help books are popular, Obama: “Change we can believe in,” Newest iPhone anticipated...)

\*\*For Minnie Mouse, she is most “dangerous” from a Progressive values system, so I would argue from here more than legal or moral. I *could* argue that she is immoral because she is domestic and teaches girls not to aspire equally to Mickey. Legally, from def above, Minnie “risks” harm to others by limiting their chances to grow.