



## Two Minute Challenge: Employee Discount

Your student loans do not cover the entire cost of college for you. While your parents would like to help, they just cannot do any more right now. In order to pay your bills, you get a job at one of the local campus bookstores. The job pays well, but you are still not making enough to pay all of your expenses. The best part of this job is that you get a 50% discount on all merchandise. This really helps you out, and while you won't have any money for social activities, you might break even. Early in the semester, a few classmates approach you with an offer: they will pay you 75% of the total cost of their books if you purchase their books using your discount. If you do this, you will be able to pay your bills and have a little extra spending money. What do you do?

### Issues

Self survival – finding ways to pay for a necessity

Responsibilities to employer

Alternative ways of finding income

Integrity

Cost to community

Difference between necessities and luxuries

### Rules and Regulations

Are there any state or local laws that prohibit using your employee discount for others?

Does your employer have any rules regarding the use of your employee discount?

What is the likelihood of getting caught?

If caught, what will the likely consequences be? Termination? Job reference? Discount?

### Questions

How will this affect your classmates who have asked you? Will this negatively impact your friendship if you don't go through with it? If you do go through with it?

Are there any other ways to make your tuition payments? Can you speak with a school counselor about making a tuition payment plan? Can you find university owned housing that might cost less? Can you find an additional job? Are there grants you can apply for?

How will this affect your employer?

How will this affect your employment?

Will you fall behind on making your tuition payments? Housing payments?

What role do ethics have when you are fighting for a necessity, such as higher education? What if it was for food? What if it was for healthcare?

Is this stealing if your classmates are still paying 50% to your employer (and 25% to you)? If so, who is stealing from whom?



## Resources

Friends and Family

Employer

School counselor

Your values/moral compass

## Options

Agree to deal with classmates

Tell employer

Don't tell employer

Refuse deal and hope to make  
due

Find alternative methods of  
making more money

Attempt to negotiate payments  
so as to ease the pressure and  
ensure your continued education

Attempt to work with employer  
to get higher pay

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## Takeaway Lessons:

Potential financial problems vs. employment stability + employer's interests + interests of fellow employees.

