

Aristotle Phronesis: wisdom to know what to do in particular circumstances Eudaemonia: long-lasting happiness that is the goal of life; human flourishing

Aristotle's forms of virtues Character virtues Courage Temperance Justice Self-respect Intellectual virtues Science Art Philosophy

Virtues represent the mean between excess and deficiency Use rational judgment based on consideration of all the facts in a particular situation

What does practical wisdom consist of? • Knowing what to do (do the right thing) • Knowing why you do it (right reason) • Knowing when to do (at the right time) • Knowing to whom (to the right person)

How does practical wisdom develop? • Aristotle > practice, experience, = habit • Cognitive science > perception, emotion

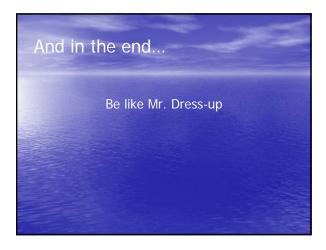
A short story... Why are you so angry?

Why is practical wisdom important? (challenges) • As a counterbalance to: - Overreliance on evidence (especially when there is none) - Overreliance on experts (not thinking) - Overreliance on rules and procedures

Another story (or two)... 3 times, You're Out! It's not what you think

Can practical wisdom be taught? Sellman (2009) offers a re-direct - Can phronesis be learned?





Selected references Aristotle . Nicomachean Ethics. Translated by Terence Irwin (1985). Indianapolis: Hackett. Oberle, K. and Bouchal, S. (2009). Ethics in Canadian Nursing Practice: navigating the journey. Toronto: Pearson. Schwartz, B. and Sharpe, K. (2010). Practical wisdom: the right way to do the right thing. NY: Riverhead Books. Sellman, D. (2009). Practical wisdom in health and social care: teaching for professional phronesis. Learning in Health and Social Care, 8 (2), 84-91.

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