TALKING POINTS FOR WESTON

Why ethics?
- Mindful living giving balance to reason, emotion and action.
- Deep hearing… what is it?
  - Hearing another
  - Hearing ourselves
- What is dogmatism?
  - Emotional investment without rational investment.
- What is rationalizing?
  - The counterfeit of reasoning = special pleading, excuse making, double standards, informal fallacies, etc.
- Diversity
  - Difference is the beginning of dialogue
  - Difference is opportunity

Appeal to Authority
- Types of authority - God, rules, theories, etc
- Teachers/mentors vs. authorities

Ethical Creativity
- Non-judgmental ways of investigating
  - Breaking “set” – deep hearing again
  - Brainstorming
  - Free association
  - Intermediate Impossible
    - Work backwards from ideal model to best possible model
- Reframe problem
  - Don’t freeze-frame; don’t accommodate the real problem; get to the root
  - Preventative ethics
  - Opportunity instead of problem
  - Go public – invite dialogue

Avoid Polarization
- Right vs. Right
- Integrative strategies
  - Find the common ground
  - Find what is compatible
  - Split the difference

Ethics with a Heart
- Difference is the beginning of dialogue
- How the heart closes
  - Fear, ego, “the other”
- How the heart opens
  - Exchanging self for other
  - The expanding circle

ASSIGNMENT:
* Define “constructive moral dialogue” using the ideas from Weston's book.
* Define some tools for dialogue (at least three), some barriers to dialogue (at least three), and give examples of each. The examples may be from the book, or from your own observations, or both.
* Think about the possible limits to Weston’s suggestions. What happens when at least some of the parties involved are not interested in being rational or humane? Consider Teddy Roosevelt’s famous motto, “Speak softly, but carry a big stick.”