

ETHICAL DECISION MAKING

TO ARREST OR NOT?

Officer Marion is a campus police officer at Hypothetical University. Officer Marion loves his job but sometimes gets a little tired of dealing with complaints about students partying in the dorms. One night, as his shift is about to end, he is driving back to the police station when he sees a student drinking what appears to be a beer. Initially he remembers how he occasionally drank beer when he was a college student. The student is not creating any disturbances, but he looks like he is underage. Officer Marion really wants to get home so that he can spend time with his son, who is celebrating his 10th birthday.

YOU DECIDE

1. Should Officer Marion stop the student? What factors might influence this decision?
2. What are some things that could go wrong if the officer decides not to stop the student?
3. Do you think a campus police officer would handle this situation differently than a local police officer? Explain.