

Summary: This case discusses poor *ethical reasoning* and *decision making* by managers at B.F. Goodrich after brakes it designed failed 1968 test flights. In 1969, a former B.F. Goodrich employee, Kermit Vandivier, accused B.F. Goodrich of falsifying test reports in an attempt to quickly secure an Air Force contract rather than accurately report the brake failures and redesigning the brakes. If he had not decided to become a *whistle blower*, prompting calls for a government investigation, B.F. Goodrich's ethical misconduct could have endangered many lives. This case also discusses the company's *corporate culture* which prompted the managers to engage in unethical actions.

This is a good summary (or *identification of the ethical dilemma*) because:

1. It answers the questions: Who? What? Where? When? Why? as shown below.
2. It is concise (101 words, including 4 "B.F"s). It summarizes the key points without repeating the case (101, not 1001 words).
3. It uses correct business and ethics terminology such as *ethical reasoning*, *whistle blowing*, and *corporate culture*.
4. It is fact-filled and avoids extraneous information such as:

"I *feel* they should have learned to tell the truth when they were children".

Your feelings and what the managers learned, or did not learn, as children are not relevant facts in the case. It's not a case in child development.

This case discusses poor *ethical reasoning* and *decision making* by managers at B.F. Goodrich after brakes it designed failed 1968 test flights. In 1969, a former B.F. Goodrich employee, Kermit Vandivier, accused B.F. Goodrich of falsifying test reports in an attempt to quickly secure an Air Force contract rather than accurately report the brake failures and redesigning the brakes. If he had not decided to become a *whistle blower*, prompting calls for a government investigation, B.F. Goodrich's ethical misconduct could have endangered many lives. This case also discusses the company's *corporate culture* which prompted the managers to engage in unethical actions.

1. It answers most of the questions: Who? What? Where? When? Why?

Who (did what)?

Managers at B.F. Goodrich engaged in poor ethical reasoning and poor ethical decision making.

What (exactly did they do)? The managers falsified test flight data about B.F. Goodrich brakes (i.e. lied). Falsifying data put lives at risk.

Where?

Corporate offices.

When?

Mr. Vandivier blew the whistle in 1969. B.F. Goodrich falsified reports following 1968 tests.

Why?

B.F. Goodrich managers wanted to quickly secure a government contract.