

To Tell or Not to Tell

Arafat, an employee of a large paper company, has made a shocking discovery. Read this letter to his brother and find out: What is happening at his company?



Dear Mohammed,

Thanks for the phone call yesterday; it was good to talk with you. You asked me if something was wrong, and I said no. But you were right, older brother—something is bothering me, troubling me greatly.

After talking to you yesterday, I decided to write you a letter. Writing often helps me organize my thoughts and see life more clearly.

I accidentally discovered that my company is dumping a chemical into a river near one of its factories in the countryside. At first, I wasn't concerned about this. I knew that the owners of the company were fine men and would not do anything illegal.

But then I read a story in the newspaper about factories illegally dumping chemicals into rivers and how many of these chemicals are harmful. **One chemical is very dangerous to humans because, over time, it can cause cancer. And this is the same chemical that my own company is dumping into that river!**

I was puzzled at first. So I checked carefully and found out that I was right. **The company has been dumping this deadly chemical for about 18 months, and the owners know about it!**

Well, Mohammed, I am confused and upset. **Of course, I could tell my boss. But then he might tell the owners and they would fire me, the troublemaker.** Should I talk to officials of the government? The owners are powerful men and might bribe the officials, and then I would lose my job. Perhaps I could talk to the journalist who wrote the story in the newspaper.

As you know, **I plan to retire in four more years. I am too old to quit and find a new job. Besides, I like my work.** Well, I used to like my work. Now I am feeling very strange. It is getting difficult to continue my work as if nothing were wrong.

Please help me, older brother. I don't know what to do.

Yours,
Arafat

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

If you were Arafat's older brother, what would you tell him? Check the responses you agree with.

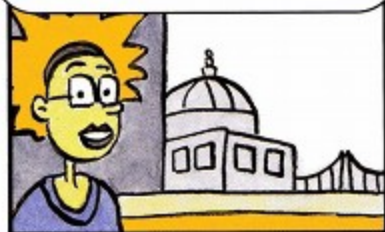
Don't be afraid of losing your job. Be loyal to the community. Just think of the terrible danger to the people, especially the children, who play and fish in the river.



Send unsigned letters to the people who live near the river and explain what's happening. Then they will start a protest.



Don't say anything. Your job is too important. At your age, you'll never find another one.



Talk to the journalist who wrote the story in the newspaper. Tell her everything. But make sure they keep your name secret.



Keep your mouth shut. You should be loyal to your company.



Now exchange your ideas with a classmate.

TURN TO PAGE 88 FOR AN INTERACTION TIP.

LOOKING AT THE ISSUE

- Do you think it's cowardly to send an unsigned or anonymous letter?
 Yes No It depends

• In the following situations, would you give your name or remain anonymous? Why?

1. You have witnessed a car accident. Some people are seriously injured. You call the ambulance and the police.

Give your name Remain anonymous Why: _____

2. You have witnessed a robbery in a store where you are shopping. You call the police.

Give your name Remain anonymous Why: _____

3. You are writing a request card to a radio music program. Your name might be announced all over your country.

Give your name Remain anonymous Why: _____

4. You donate a lot of money to charity. They want to list donors' names in the local newspaper.

Give your name Remain anonymous Why: _____