PHIL 101IH INTRO ETHICS: GOOD AND EVIL

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Spring 2018 – Weekly Brainstorm #3

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This week we started our discussion with Singer, talking about the killing of animals for our own gain. This is a moral argument because we know that a part of our nature is to eat meat for sustenance. Some say humans are affected by speciesism because most humans don’t care about the feelings of animals and would not equate an animal’s emotion to that of a human. I don’t believe in speciesism because in the history of our planet there have always been carnivorous beings. There is a counter argument that begs the question: Why do humans possess more dignity than non-humans? Also, what is the dignity about? It’s only our perspective that we are more important than all other animals. To say that we are better because of our brains is speciesism. As interesting as an idea as this is, I still will probably enjoy livestock for the rest of my life. The one problem I have with eating meat is that humans are so populous that to keep up with our meat consumption we must breed so many animals and offset the balance of nature more and more every day. This topic of speciesism is important to talk about because it brings to light some more problems with utilitarianism. I believe a utilitarian would justify eating mean by saying that animals don’t receive equal hedons and dolors that humans do and that humans count for a lot more. This is an unfair assessment of animals. I believe animals have more feelings than we can understand.