

Moral Controversies in Contemporary Society

Final Essay Questions

Instructions

You are required to write a 2,000-word essay in response to one of the questions below. The essay **cannot** be on the same topic as your mid-term essay. For example, do not answer question 1 below if you answered question 2 for the mid-term essay. However, anyone can answer questions 5-9, regardless of their mid-term essay topic.

The essay **can** be on the same topic as your presentation.

Answer **ONE** of the following:

Euthanasia

1. Is active euthanasia morally worse than passive euthanasia? Why? Why not?
2. Should we respect a person's decision to die when and only when they are suffering?

Organs

3. 'We do not harm the dead if we remove their body parts, so it is not wrong to do so in order to save a person's life.' Analyse this argument.
4. Does a duty of justice to pay tax in order to help others entail a duty of justice to donate (at least some) body parts?

Abortion

5. Is there a good philosophical argument for permitting abortions only in exceptional cases such as incest?
6. 'Despite its popular appeal, there is no good philosophical justification to hold that viability is the point at which abortion becomes impermissible.' Do you agree? Why? Why not?

Enhancement

7. Should we respect a parent's decision concerning the selection of traits for his/her child?
8. Is incarceration a morally worse punishment than forcibly administering crime reducing neurointerventions?

Animal Rights

9. 'It is permissible to buy meat in order to eat it for pleasure.' Defend this view.