After completing the Moral Machine Experiment, my experience making these decisions seemed extremely difficult to begin with. I am a person who wouldn’t harm the tiniest of spiders on the ground, so making choices to kill 5 people made me really think of any other factors. Using the ideals of roll based and consequence based ethics, I was able to follow a certain order of priority when making my decisions. A lot of people, called ‘others’ on the Machine, strongly preferred to save more people. This is simply because they applied the ‘majority rules’ thought of process. However, the ideals behind deontology was sticking with me throughout most of the thirteen scenarios.

As mentioned earlier, I did tend to lean towards the scenario that saves the most people at first glance, but then I started to think about what I would do if I wasn’t in an autonomous vehicle. If this wasn’t a simulation. I would prefer to save myself and the people that are inside the car with me. As utilitarianism would explain, I decided to prevent swerving into the barricade and instead run over any living person or animal in my path because the greater good for me was coming out of the scenarios alive. Except for when I was the only one in the vehicle and saw a herd of people of all ages crossing the street abiding by the law. I felt like taking only my life to save those people would be remembered as a good heroic unselfish action, simply because it is good.

This is where I started to really like the rules of deontology. As long as I am doing good, it won’t matter in the real world right? I stopped reading the type of people there were and focused mainly on whether they were following the law, and who was in the car with me. In the scenarios where there was one side of the crosswalk following the law and one not following the law, I automatically went for the side where the law was not being followed. Although most of the time I chose to kill more people in this specific scenario, the greater good would be to just simply follow the law. The pedestrians that died were not following the rules, I am just doing the common good and avoiding more trouble. You can say that I just didn’t want any burden on me but it just seems like the clear way to go. Deontology is something that many can frown upon when it comes to making decisions that takes people’s lives.

When the Machine started to include animals in the scenario, my previous methods and ethics didn’t change. To put it in simple ways: I didn’t really care about running over the animals. Yes, they are not aware of crossing the street on a red or green light, but I think saving five human lives and my own is way better than saving 5 dog’s lives. And no I would not take my own life to save animals. I’m sure there are no people and no laws that are going to punish me for choosing to save humans instead of dogs. This ties with the negative rights of animals, as there would really be no problem or a big ethical dilemma over it.

Overall, in all of the categories, my tally mark in every category in the end was mostly different than the ‘others’. I never judged the humans based on their status or whether they were homeless or not. Quantity over quality. Utilitarianism was easier to abide by, as the good will outweigh the bad and that was fine with me, except for animals(nothing against them). There were really no rules in this Machine, so I also found myself just going with the path that seemed the most good. Following the law and saving myself was more important. If there were to be more details in the people in the scenarios, such as what that person is to you, then I would have likely shifted a lot more into a consequence based ideal, as I would do almost everything for the people that I care about and are family to me. Social viewpoints and contracts would hate me for showing no hesitation killing the animals and the young children simply because there were two homeless on the other side that deserve to live more according to my logic. This was a fun little weird simulation that I will definitely do again for other scenarios.