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23/6/17

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
School of Professional Studies


ESSAY CONTEST

Calling all undergraduates!
Have something to say about BIOETHICS?

PROMPT #1: THOUGHT EXPERIMENT

In 1975, philosopher John Harris posed a thought experiment known as the Survival Lottery. Suppose organ donation is perfect (i.e., everyone is a perfect match for everyone else). Everyone in the country is assigned a random, unique number. Whenever two or more people require an organ, a number is randomly generated so that one person, whose number matches the one drawn, is killed so their organs may be harvested. The resulting death saves two or more lives by providing the organs needed to the patients. Is the survival lottery ethical? Why or why not? Answer in 1500-2000 words.

Citation: Harris, John (1975). "The Survival Lottery." *Philosophy*, 50: 81-87.

PROMPT #2: ASIAN BIOETHICS

Much of modern bioethics is heavily steeped in the Western philosophical tradition, drawing from a long history of thinkers, from Plato to Rawls. However, other regions of the world have their own rich philosophical traditions. Consider a current bioethical issue, perhaps one with more global or regional implications, through the lens of East or South Asian traditions in philosophy, spirituality, and ethics. This can, but need not be, contrasted to a Western approach. The winning article for this topic will be posted as the inaugural entry in our new VIB Asia section on our website. Answer in 1500-2000 words.

PROMPT #3: LAW AND BIOETHICS

Present and analyze a bioethical issue that has been litigated in a court of any jurisdiction, or addressed in policy, legislation, or regulation in any jurisdiction. Discuss whether the result of the litigation or whether the policy, law, or regulation creates the best possible ethical outcomes for the populations it affects. Answer in 1500-2000 words.

Respond to one topic & submit to: voicesinbioethics.org/essaycontest2017
No later than 15 July 2017

Winners awarded \$350

Announced 1 September 2017

One (1) winner and two (2) runners up per prompt



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All undergraduate students
are advised to take part
in this Essay Contest.

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