

Reading response assignment #3 (summary)

In “Doing Good and Doing the Best,” McMahan introduces a number of thought experiments in order to investigate the ethics of charitable giving. One of them—which he discusses on pp. 84–87—is drawn from Shelly Kagan. Another—which he discusses on pp. 87–88—is a modified version of Kagan’s original example. Complete at least the first three of the following tasks in your submission:

1. Summarize the question (or questions) concerning the ethics of charitable giving that McMahan uses these various thought experiments to investigate.
2. Summarize the two thought experiments mentioned above.
3. Summarize the conclusions that McMahan draws from these two thought experiments up until p. 88.
4. *If* you still have space, what do *you* think we should conclude from these thought experiments about the ethics of charitable giving?

For the first three tasks, your job is to clearly and concisely summarize the two thought experiments and explain their potential implications (e.g., for the ethics of charitable giving). The fourth task is a critical thinking exercise, and if you have the space to address it, your job is to persuade your reader of your answer by providing at least one **reason** to accept it. (It is possible to write a full-credit response both by engaging all four tasks or by engaging only the first three; it depends on how concisely you’re able to complete the first three tasks without a loss of clarity.) Don’t forget to follow Jim Pryor’s advice by assuming that your reader is “lazy, stupid, and mean” (5).

Your response should be **500–700 words**. Please attach it as a **PDF** (**not** .pages, .doc, etc.) through Canvas.