

BUSINESS, SOCIETY & ETHICS

Rejecting Affirmative Action

As you read the material for our next class, keep the questions below in mind. To answer these questions you will have to reflect critically on what you have read and possibly re-read important passages. Keep in mind that there are two basic kinds of information that you need to look for in the reading:

1. What are the main points or conclusions that an author accepts with respect to a particular issue?
2. What are the reasons, important considerations, and evidence that lead the author to accept that conclusion?

For our purposes, *it is information of the second sort that will be our primary concern* since our most basic task is to *evaluate the reasons and evidence* that are offered to support accepting one possible conclusion about an issue, rather than another.

Although I strongly suggest that you write out brief answers to these questions, you do not have to turn in written responses. You do, however, need to be prepared to speak intelligently about these issues at our next class meeting.

Reading

- Louis P. Pojman, "Why Affirmative Action is Immoral".

Questions

1. What is the difference between preferential affirmative action and procedural affirmative action? Can you give examples of each? Which one does Pojman reject?
2. What is the "level playing field" argument in defense of affirmative action? What reasons does Pojman give to reject this argument?
3. What is the "compensation" argument in defense of affirmative action? What reasons does Pojman give to reject this argument?
4. What does it mean to innocently benefit from past injustices? What reasons does Pojman give to reject the claim that innocent beneficiaries owe compensation?
5. Putting all this together, why does Pojman believe that affirmative action is "*both racist and sexist*" (p. 224)?