

# BUSINESS, SOCIETY & ETHICS

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## Debate #1: This House Believes Volkswagen Proves that Businesses Cannot Be Trusted to Regulate Themselves

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.

### Readings

- Karl Russell, Guilbert Gates, Josh Keller & Derek Watikins, "How Volkswagen Got Away With Diesel Deception".
- Jack Ewing & Graham Bowley, with Melissa Eddy & Laura Fauss, "The Engineering of Volkswagen's Aggressive Ambition".
- Danny Hakim & Jad Mouawad, "Galvanized by VW Scandal, E.P.A. Expands On-Road Emissions Testing".
- Karen Yeung, "Very Few Businesses Can Be Trusted".
- Joseph William Singer, "Regulation Is Just Another Word for Law".
- Ian Adams, "Companies Are Best Equipped to Regulate Themselves".
- Logan Albright, "The Cost of Regulation".
- David Livingston, "The Volkswagen Scandal Confronts Auto Regulation's 'Inherent Vice'".

### Questions

1. What seem to be the strongest arguments that support and justify this debate's motion?
2. What seem to be the strongest arguments that critique and reject this debate's motion?