

BUSINESS, SOCIETY & ETHICS

Prejudice & Quotas

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

- Rachels, J. (1997). Coping with Prejudice. In *Can Ethics Provide Answers? And Other Essays in Moral Philosophy* (pp. 199–212). Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.
- *Optional*: Qatar General Secretariat for Development Planning. (2011, March). Increasing Women's Empowerment. In *Qatar National Development Strategy 2011–2016* (pp. 175–178). Doha, Qatar: Gulf Publishing & Printing Company.
- *Optional*: Al-Thani, A. b. F. (2012, December 17). Women in Qatar: Quotas, Qualifications, and Qatarization. [Online video]. YouTube. Retrieved November 13, 2017 from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UYDJxsDiDwQ>.

Questions

1. What is "heightism"? Does James Rachels believe that it is a serious social issue in need of immediate corrective action? Why does Rachels present this issue?
2. According to Rachels, what four circumstances must hold in order to justify the imposition of quotas on a decision-making process?
3. What objections against quotas does Rachels consider, and how does he try to respond to them?
4. On goal of Qatar's National Development Strategy (see the optional reading from the Qatar General Secretariat for Development Planning) is to increase the number of women in leadership positions. Should Qatar start instituting and enforcing quotas to help achieve this goal? (For more on this, you might watch the optional video of a talk by Dr. Sheikha Al-Thani.)