

Philanthropy & Social Responsibility

Instructions

When doing the reading for this class, there are the two basic kinds of information you need to understand:

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 position on an issue, rather than another.

Reading

Carnegie, A. (1889, June). Wealth. *North American Review*, 148(391), 653-664.

Optional: Farbman, J. (2015, December 7). We Don't Want Mark Zuckerberg's Charity. *Jacobin*. Retrieved August 16, 2016, from <https://www.jacobinmag.com/2015/12/facebook-zuckerbergs-charity-gates-philanthropy/>.

Questions

As you read, keep these questions in mind:

1. Andrew Carnegie rejects communism and socialism in favor of capitalism. How does he justify this position?
2. What does Carnegie believe a rich person should do with his or her personal wealth? How does Mark Zuckerberg's recent \$45 billion pledge accord with Carnegie's position? Do Carnegie's and Zuckerberg's reasons seem prudential, altruistic, or consequential?

(For a critical look at this approach to philanthropy, see the optional reading by Jason Farbman.)

3. While Carnegie certainly advocates social responsibility for wealthy individuals, do you think he would also defend corporate social responsibility (CSR)?

(Recall that CSR may be understood as a general concern for a business to benefit, or otherwise contribute to, the social and ecological environment in which it operates.)

To answer these questions you will have to reflect critically on what you have read and possibly re-read important passages.

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.