

Stakeholder Management

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

Freeman, R. E. (2009). Managing for stakeholders. In T. L. Beauchamp, N. E. Bowie, & D. G. Arnold (Eds.), *Ethical theory and business* (8th ed., pp. 56-68). Prentice Hall.

Questions

As you read, keep these questions in mind:

1. According to R. Edward Freeman, what does it mean to accept responsibility for our own actions? Why does he believe that businesses cannot avoid accepting this responsibility?
2. What does it mean to have a stake in a business? Who are the various parties that typically have such a stake? What relationships do each of these parties have with the business and what responsibilities and obligations does that generate on the part of the business?
3. What does Freeman seem to suggest is the purpose of business? Why does he believe this has the most “pragmatic” support?

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.