

POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

Resentment, Discrimination & (Re)Distributing Honor

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

Pressley, S. A. (1996, November 12). A 'safety' blitz. *The Washington Post*. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/politics/1996/11/12/a-safety-blitz/f7dd70dc-8f51-44fc-b293-e9afca9f9e12/>

Ryan, B. (1998, January 31). Sorry, free rides not right. *Boston Globe*, E1.

Kite, T. (1998, February 2). Keep the PGA on foot. *The New York Times*, A23.

Sandel, M. J. (1996, December 23). Honor and Resentment. *The New Republic*, 215(26), 27.

Saletan, W. (2005, April 18). *The beam in your eye*. Slate. <https://slate.com/technology/2005/04/if-steroids-are-cheating-why-isn-t-lasik.html>

Questions

As you read, keep these questions in mind:

1. Michael Sandel says that "indignation at misplaced honor is a moral sentiment that figures prominently in our politics, complicating and sometimes inflaming arguments about fairness and rights" (p. 27).
How does Sandel use the example of Callie Smartt's experience of being removed from the cheerleader squad to illustrate his idea about honor and resentment? How might that same idea be illustrated by the response of Bob Ryan and Tome Kite in response to Casey Martin request to use a golf cart on the PGA Tour.
2. How does Ryan defend his claim that Martin is not "entitled" to a golf cart? Based on that, would John Rawls have to agree that Martin has no legitimate expectation for a cart?
3. According to Kite, why does golf as a "competitive sport" and "athletic event" entail that Martin should not be able to use a golf cart?
Based on that argument, should Kite himself be barred from golf since (as mentioned by William Saletan) Kite had LASIK eye surgery? It is consistent to prohibit golf carts but allow enhancement surgery?

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.