

# Debates in Social Ethics

- 1. **What** are the debates in social ethics?
- 2. **How** do the debates in social ethics work?
- 3. **Why** are the debates in social ethics important?

1. **What** are the debates in social ethics?

The most important debates in social ethics go beyond those involved in social issues, like sexism, racism, and ableism. This does not mean that these social issues are less important, but that responses to them rely upon the outcomes of ethical debates at a deeper level. Fundamentally, it is the answers to these deeper level debates that dictate which approach to social ethics people adopt. Make a note about three of the most important debates in social ethics (i.e. principle, type, and application).

Debates in Social Ethics		
Principle	Type	Application

The very important debate about the type of equality that societies should seek to achieve is over whether societies should attempt to pursue equality of opportunity, which ensures people access to the same life chances, or equality of outcome, which ensures people the same income and wealth by death (or some other milestone). Consequently, it is important to know what these types of equality are in order to understand this debate. Write definitions for "equality of opportunity" and "equality of outcome".

Equality of Opportunity	Equality of Outcome

## 2. **How** do the debates in social ethics work?

The debates in social ethics are about more than social issues. In fact, debates about principle, type, and application affect other areas of applied ethics as well (e.g. animal ethics, and medical ethics). Make a note about how the debates in social ethics work.

How the Debates in Social Ethics Work		
Principle	Type	Application

## 3. **Why** are the debates in social ethics important?

The debates in social ethics are important for several reasons. Arguably the most important is the effect they have on societies around the world and what they are like to live in. Make a note about how the debates in social ethics affect human societies

How the Debates in Social Ethics Affect Societies	

Beyond the effect they have on human societies, the debates in social ethics are important for other reasons related to the influence they have on addressing social issues. Make a note of three additional reasons why the debates in social ethics are important.

Why the Debates in Social Ethics are Important	
1	
2	
3	