

Debates in Environmental Ethics

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

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

The most important debates in environmental ethics go beyond those involved in environmental issues, like sustainability, waste management, and climate change. The debates discussed here take place at a deeper level, and their answers influence the ways that different people approach environmental issues (e.g. conservation and stewardship). Make a note about three of the most important debates in environmental ethics (i.e. value, interests, and attitude).

Debates in Environmental Ethics		
Value	Interests	Attitude

The very important debate about value is over whether the environment and other living things have intrinsic value or instrumental value. This debate is of central importance because it affects how human beings evaluate the worth of the environment, either as something that is valuable in itself or as something that is valuable only as a tool for something else. Consequently, it is important to know what these types of value are in order to understand this debate. Write definitions for "intrinsic value" and "instrumental value".

Intrinsic Value	Instrumental Value

2. **How** do the debates in environmental ethics work?

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

How the Debates in Environmental Ethics Work		
Value	Interests	Attitude

3. **Why** are the debates in environmental ethics important?

The debates in environmental ethics are important for several reasons. Arguably the most important is the effect they have on human lifestyles. Make a note about how the debates in environmental ethics affect the lifestyles of human beings.

How the Debates in Environmental Ethics Affect Lifestyles

Beyond the effect they have on people's lifestyles, the debates in environmental ethics are important for other reasons related to the threat posed by environmental issues. Make a note of three additional reasons why the debates in environmental ethics are important.

Why the Debates in Environmental Ethics are Important	
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