

First paper topics

Write an 1800 word (about 5–6 pages) paper on one of the following topics. Turn the paper in to one of our boxes before 11am on Tuesday, October 9. Enjoy!

1. The results of random bad luck that affects some persons more than others seem unfair. Under what circumstances does random bad luck give the unlucky a claim to resources that otherwise belong to others? Under what circumstances do the victims of random bad luck deserve compensation great enough to make them as well off as they would have been had ill luck not befallen them? Dworkin and Menzel answer this question differently; what makes their answers diverge?
2. Bernard Williams argues that health care ought to be distributed according to need. Robert Nozick and Paul Menzel criticize a position like his for ignoring the preferences of producers and consumers, respectively. Explain what strikes you as a compelling criticism of Williams's argument. How might Williams respond. What do you think? Is it illuminating to say that health care should be distributed according to need or not?