

Third paper topics

Please answer one of the following questions in 900 words or less, about three double-spaced pages. Please put a paper copy in Eleanor Brown's box in Carnegie before 3:30 pm on Friday, October 22. Please leave an electronic copy in the Sakai drop box as well. Good luck!

1. Nussbaum promotes an idea of "tragic choices" in her discussion of the role moral commitments might play in cost-benefit analysis. Menzel, in his discussion of QALYs and their usefulness in cost-benefit analysis, does not address the question of moral commitments. Explain in brief what Nussbaum means by a tragic choice and how it might affect a cost-benefit analysis, and then discuss Menzel's interrogations of QALYs and how Nussbaum's concern might be incorporated into his analysis. Do her concerns strengthen, complicate, or undermine his view?
2. Frank's concern with positional goods raises the possibility that private demand for health care is either too high or too low, depending on whether health care is a positional good or, alternatively, a good consumers economize on in order to pursue greater quantities of positional goods. Explain what is meant here by "too high or too low." If health quality is a positional good and longevity is not, how would this show up in the construction of QALYs, along the lines discussed by Menzel?

