

THE ETHICS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE CENTER AND
THE COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS PRESENT THE

PRIZE in BIOETHICS and SOCIAL JUSTICE

Fourth Annual Essay Competition

Awards: 1st Prize – \$250.00; 2nd Prize – \$150.00

Contest Deadline: Friday, November 9, 2018 at 5 p.m. EST

GOAL OF THE COMPETITION: This annual essay competition intends to help raise awareness of today's urgent ethical issues confronting the health care industry and providers. This annual competition aims to initiate and facilitate a dialogue across the university that helps to cultivate skills in students that promote the key Bellarmine values of civic engagement, critical reflection, moral courage and leadership.

ELIGIBILITY: Registered full- or part-time undergraduate or graduate students enrolled in the College of Health Professions at Bellarmine University during the fall 2018 semester. This includes all College of Health Professions major programs, minors and the Health Care minor.

ESSAY TOPIC: Miguel is a 12-year-old Mexican citizen who has lived his entire life in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico with his parents, Maria and Juan. After being diagnosed with dilated cardiomyopathy, a condition that will require Miguel to receive a heart transplant in the next one to two years, a family member advised Maria and Juan to find a way across the border to seek treatment—and a transplant—in the United States. Upon entering the U.S., Miguel's parents successfully placed him on the United Network Organ Sharing (UNOS) waiting list for patients seeking a heart transplant. For the past six months, Miguel and his family have been living in the U.S. waiting for a donor.

A donor heart has become available that is nearly a perfect match for Miguel. However, there is another candidate on the waiting list, Jimmy, a 14-year-old U.S. citizen, who is a match for the donor heart. Jimmy has been on the waiting list for a heart for nearly three years. In spite of this, the likelihood of a transplant that is successful long-term is about 20% lower for Jimmy than for Miguel. Nevertheless, the medical urgency of the situation for both Miguel and Jimmy is the same.

The controversy surrounding transplantation and immigration is hotly debated. One group of patient rights advocates argues that it is the medical community's duty to help whoever is in the greatest need and has the greatest potential medical benefit, regardless of that person's country of origin or immigration status. This is the essential moral duty of the health care community. Another group argues that the medical community should give preference to U.S. citizens because to do otherwise would create an unpredictable supply and demand of organs and medical resources. They argue that governments of other countries might encourage their citizens to go to the U.S. for treatment, rather than developing organ transplant networks of their own.

ESSAY TOPIC QUESTION: Should immigration status affect someone's access to medical treatment? Take a position and defend your claim.

REVIEW CRITERIA:

- Clear articulation and expression of ideas.
- Carefully proofread essay.
- Good grammar, punctuation and paper mechanics.
- Well thought-out and focused essay.
- Creative, thoughtful, reflective and imaginative.

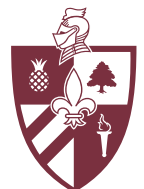
ESSAY FORMAT:

- Approximately 1500 words, please address the Essay Topic Question.
- Include essay title.
- Write in a formal voice and articulate a clear thesis statement.
- Follow the APA Style Manual.
- Author's own work.
- One essay per student.
- Type in 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced with 1" margins and numbered pages.

Submissions will be judged anonymously, so your paper must be prepared for blind review. Omit all identifying references, such as your name. Be sure to remove this as well in the 'properties' of the document.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES FOR STUDENTS:

- Send essays and cover page electronically to Dr. Katherine Johnson at kjohnson@bellarmine.edu.
- Your **cover page document** must include: your name, title of essay, word count, your major, graduation year, undergraduate/graduate status (freshman, sophomore, etc.) and full- or part-time status, email address, student ID number, contact phone number and name of your faculty mentor.
- Entries **must** include verification from a faculty mentor. Once you submit your essay, your mentor will be contacted to verify the quality and authenticity of your submission.
- Save essays and cover page as a Word or PDF document only.
- In the subject line of the email, please write "Bioethics & Social Justice Submission 2018."
- Submit your essay no later than 5 p.m. EST on Friday, November 9, 2018.
- We do not accept paper or hardcopy submissions.



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THE AUTHOR OF THE WINNING ESSAY WILL BE NOTIFIED BY 5 P.M. EST ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2018.