

TEAM-TAUGHT PHIL 1000

Assignment for Professor Barnett

1. The Envelope: You receive an envelope and a request for \$50 from UNICEF. If you send the money, it is likely that 30 impoverished children will be spared disease, suffering, and death. Like most relatively well-off Americans, you toss the envelope in the trash.

The Bug: You are driving in a rural area in your new VW Bug. You come across an injured young woman. She was once a medical student and is knowledgeable about her injury. She tells you, in honesty, that while trespassing she cut her leg badly on some barbed wire and that her leg will need to be amputated unless you drive her to the nearest hospital. You realize that her bloody leg will cause about \$480 of damage to your leather seats. You wish her good luck and drive off without her.

Most Americans would react negatively to your behavior in The Bug, but not in The Envelope. Use the method we learned in class to evaluate whether the following difference between the two cases is *morally* relevant: in The Envelope, you are one of millions of people who are in a position to aid the relevant victims; in The Bug, you are the only potential hero. (A paragraph is sufficient to answer this question.)

2. Give an original and convincing counterexample to each of the following moral principles, and say why your examples qualify as counterexamples (do not use the counterexamples discussed in class; one paragraph for each counterexample is sufficient):
  - a. Necessarily, something is a right action if, and only if, it is natural.
  - b. Necessarily, something is a right action if, and only if, x is normal.