

Reading Questions for October 17

These questions cover excerpts from a book by David Hume called *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*. The answers do not have to be turned in. You will probably have to do the reading more than once to get the answers.

1. At the beginning of the excerpt, Hume distinguishes two propositions. What is the difference between them? Some people think that you can infer one of the propositions from the other. In the excerpt, Hume will be challenging that you can infer one from the other.
2. Hume distinguishes two kinds of reasoning, which he calls demonstrative reasoning and moral reasoning. (The term “moral reasoning” is somewhat misleading – Hume does not mean to be talking about reasoning about right and wrong). What is the difference between these supposed to be?
3. Hume says that there are no demonstrative arguments in this case. Why does he say this? Is he right?
4. In the paragraph starting: “If we be” Hume argues that there are no non-demonstrative arguments in this case. Why does he say this? Is he right?