

Reading Questions for September 1

These questions cover pages 229-236 of Peter Singer's article, "Famine, Affluence, and Morality." 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. From 230-236, Singer gives an argument that relies on a moral principle which he states on page 231. He also gives a variant of this argument, which uses a modified version of the principle – see page 231. In class we are going to work on reconstructing his argument in small groups. To prepare for this, I would like you to carefully read Singer's paper, paying special attention to pages 230-236 and try to answer the following questions:
  - (a) What is the main conclusion Singer is trying to argue for?
  - (b) What does he say in defense of his main conclusion?
  - (c) An important premise of Singer's main argument is a principle which he states on page 231. What is this principle? How does he defend it – does he give an argument for it, or does he defend it in some other way?

Having thought about these questions will be helpful in completing today's in-class work.