

Reading Questions for September 15

These questions cover some excerpts from Immanuel Kant's work *Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals*. 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. On page 31, Kant distinguishes between hypothetical and categorical imperatives. What is this distinction supposed to be?
2. On pages 37-39 Kant states one formulation of the categorical imperative. It is now known as the "formula of the universal law of nature." Explain how this formulation of the categorical imperative is supposed to help us figure out whether an act is morally acceptable.
3. On pages 45- 48 Kant states a different formulation of the categorical imperative. It is now known as the "humanity formula." Explain how this formulation of the categorical imperative is supposed to help us figure out whether an act is morally acceptable.