

Reading Questions for September 19

These questions cover some excerpts from Aristotle's book *Nicomachean Ethics*. 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 pages 101-102, Aristotle argues that human beings have a function and identifies what he takes the function to be, namely activity of soul in accordance with reason. Why does he think human beings have a function? Is he right that human beings have a function? And if so, has he identified the right function?
2. On pages 111-112, Aristotle discusses the way in which excellence of character is acquired. He seems to argue that excellence of character is mostly the result of habituation as opposed to either teaching or nature. What does he mean by this and is he right?
3. On page 117, Aristotle says that excellence is a kind of intermediacy. What does he mean by this? Is this statement helpful for figuring out what we ought morally to do?