

Reading Questions for August 25

These questions cover a book chapter by Lawrence Blum called “Personal Relationships.” The answers do not have to be turned in. You will probably have to read more than once to get the answers.

*Background:*

Blum talks about a number of different kinds of personal relationships, but in class we are going to focus on what he says about friendship.

*Questions:*

1. In the section “Personal Relationships and Morality” (pages 513-4) Blum discusses whether personal relations involve moral requirements. What does he say and why? Is he right and why?
2. In the section “Ideal Friendship and Morally Good Character” (pages 514-5) Blum discusses a view endorsed by Aristotle and Hugh LaFollette. What is this view? Does Blum agree with it? Why or why not? Is he right? Why or why not?
3. In the section “Can a Friendless Person Lead a Satisfying and Moral Life” (page 516) Blum discusses whether having friends is required to have a satisfying and moral life. What does he think the answer is and why? Is he right? Why or why not?