

Reading Questions for February 8th

These questions cover an article by Lawrence E. Frisch titled “On Licentious Licensing: A Reply to Hugh LaFollette”. The answers do not have to be turned in. You will probably have to read more than once to get the answers.

*Background:*

This week we’re looking at whether everyone should be allowed to have kids. On Monday, we looked at an article which argued that we should restrict who is allowed to have kids. Today we’re looking at an article that criticizes Monday’s article.

*Question:*

1. On the first page, Frisch says that societies undertake licensing so as to control risks. In the next four section, he then runs through four categories of risk, each time arguing that licensing parents won’t be particularly helpful in controlling these risks. What is his argument in each case? Is he right? Why or why not?
2. In the first two paragraphs of the section titled “Practical Issues”, Frisch discusses some practical problems with LaFollette’s idea of licensing parents. What are the practical issues? What do you think – do they show that LaFollette’s ideas are mistaken? Why?