

Reading Questions for April 12

These questions cover a reading by Carl Elliot called “The Best-Selling, Billion-Dollar Pills Tested on Homeless People”. The answers do not have to be turned in. You will probably have to read more than once to get the answers.

*Background:*

We are spending this week talking about what duties we have towards the homeless. On Monday we looked at a general introduction to the topic. Today, we’ll focus in on medical testing on the homeless and thus tie this week’s discussion with our previous discussion on human experimentation. Then, on Friday, we’ll look at homelessness here in Manhattan and what (if anything) you all should do about it. In today’s article, Elliot lays out various criticisms of medical testing on homeless populations. At one point in his article, he mentions someone who defends such testing named Tom Beauchamp. I’ve included an article by Beauchamp and some others as optional reading, just in case you wanted to see some more from people who have a different perspective from Elliot.

*Questions:*

1. What are the key points that Elliot discusses in his article? What ethical questions do you think his article raises? How do you think they should be answered and why?