

What is fairness?

Have you ever considered or thought twice about the question: 'What is fairness?'. Fairness, I believe is when everybody is honest, they share and treat people how they want to be treated, just like one wonderful team. An example of this is when a group must do a group project, everybody needs to be fair to each other and have equal responsibilities for the outcome. This is like the Oxford dictionary's definition which says fairness is: 'The quality of treating people equally or in a reasonable way'. In my opinion, I think everybody should definitely be treated fairly, no matter what their skin colour is, where they live around the world, their beliefs and their job or salary. If I were treated unfairly, I would not be able to do what I could today. How would you feel if you were treated unfairly?

In this essay, I am going to discuss fairness in a range of different contexts, this will show examples of what is fair or what is not fair. I will include that some people around the world are not treated fairly and even within homes and schools, where one child might be favoured over another. Some of the topics I will include will be: Human rights, fair trade and equality and inequality in sport.

Firstly, I will discuss 'Fair Trade.' Fair trade ensures that producers in developing countries are treated fairly and paid a fair price for the things they produce or make. In the Chiquita Banana Business, they are trying to pay everybody fairly but currently, their system is not very fair, it is unfair. The CEO gets approximately £4,000,000 a year and the plantation workers have salaries of £1,068 a year. I do not think this is fair because the workers run around all day to ripen bananas and get them ready to sell and the CEO sits on a comfortable chair and watches them work like ants. He might have to deal with paperwork and calls, but I do not think this is as hard as running around all day in an enormous field. Therefore, I think everybody should be paid fairly in this company. If this company were a fair-trade company, they could charge more for the bananas and then the company would be able to afford to pay the plantation workers more so that they could live a better life and look after their families.

Next, I will discuss 'Human Rights.' Human rights are the basic rights and freedoms that everyone has from birth to death. I think the human right that everyone has the right to belong to a religion is especially important because no one chooses your religion for you, you do, and no one can judge you for that. The next right I will discuss is, everyone should have the right to an education. This is important because everyone has a right to learn and if you want a respectable job in the future you need to learn and go to school, and no one can tell you that you cannot. In tutorial four we looked at the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Many countries around the world such as the UK, Spain, Nigeria, and Pakistan are signed up to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. These countries follow the above human rights more besides.

Thirdly, I will discuss fairness in terms of equality and inequality in relation to the question, 'Do rich people need all their money?' From my point of view, I think rich people do not need all their money especially the extraordinarily rich. I believe they should give some of their money to charity or to poorer people, who must save all the time in order to afford basic things like groceries and clothes to wear. The rich people have so much money, they do not really know what to do with it. Salaries therefore should be more equal, so that everyone can afford to buy what they need, and it is fair.

My second question for this topic is, 'Should one sibling be favoured over another?' An example of this is where the oldest child, called Charles is playing with the youngest, called Jack in his room. Their mother calls them for tea and they both have a cookie. The oldest looks at his mini cookie and sees his sibling with a slightly larger cookie and the oldest asks, "Mom, why is my cookie smaller than Jack's?" The mother replies that Jack (her little angel) deserves his big cookie and not Charles. In my opinion, the children should be treated equally and fairly, they should have both been given the same size cookies.

Next, I will discuss the question, 'Who should have more money, teachers or the police?' from a fairness perspective. From my point of view, I think

they should be paid the same because even if their jobs are completely different, they both work with many children and adults so it is fair to pay them the same amount. A teacher's job is to take care of 30 children and police take care of the city and enforce the law, but I think they should be paid equally because they both work so hard with children and adults, even if they have vastly different skills.

Finally, I will look at the question, 'If you were walking to school past a river and you notice a small child in the water having trouble to swim, but you are wearing slightly expensive clothes what would you do?'. If I were in this situation, I would save the child because I would rather save a young child than clothing because that small child has their whole life ahead of them and you can always dry clothes easily when they get wet. Even if I were late to school at least I would have saved somebody's life. It is the right thing to do to save someone's life, it would be unfair and the wrong choice to leave them to drown.

To conclude, from the questions I have discussed, I think fairness is looking for the good in each other and sharing perspectives. Fairness means respecting each other and being kind to everyone and always treating people the way you want to be treated.

By Martina