

Experiments in Ethics, Fall 2020
 Summary of Experiments

Experiment	Due	Task	Student examples	Rationale for Assignment
Change Making Letter	9/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Identify an ethical issue that personally affects you -Identify a specific person who can do something about that issue -Write a letter making an argument for the change that needs to be made 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Student writes to elders at her place of worship asking for dancing policy changes -Student writes to high school principal suggesting equitable dress code policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Develops skills for philosophical argumentation -Connects philosophical arguments to student lives -Invites examination about actions that may lead to changes
Change a habit or develop a virtue	10/4-10/5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Identify a virtue or habit to cultivate or change -For 7 days, work to make this change -Provide documentation of actions and write a reflection connecting actions to course materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Students try planning meals to avoid eating out -Students limit their use of phones 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Creates space for specific reflection on self as ethical agent -Allows students to think about philosophy as both public and private
Research	10/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Come up with an idea for your Organize an Activity -Research similar projects and provide notes -Research needed resources and provide notes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Students form groups -Students learn how to make room reservations and follow campus poster guidelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Provides direction and ideas for students -Helps students organize their ideas and time before the Organize an Activity is due
Volunteer Activity	10/25 - 10/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Identify organization(s) that makes changes -Volunteer at least 4 hours -Provide documentation of actions and write a reflection connecting actions to course materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Students pack food for those in hunger -Students walk dogs at animal shelters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Differentiate volunteering for an organization and organizing an activity
Charitable Giving Investigations	11/8-11/9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Compare a familiar organization with a charity recommended by Peter Singer -Provide notes on research -Give an argument for where Professor's money should be donated and connect to Peter Singer's arguments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Students compare an organization suggested by Singer (Oxfam International, Against Malaria Fund, etc) to one they are familiar with (Red Cross, Make a Wish Foundation, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Provides flexibility to address specific concepts in depth

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Organize an Activity	11/29 - 11/30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Identify an issue -Organize an action to make a positive change - Provide documentation of actions and write a reflection connecting actions to course materials -Create an electronic portfolio, a 1-minute video, and tips for next semester's students -Present to the class 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Student organizes a walk to benefit an organization working on ending eating disorders -Student organizes shoe collection for a local organization benefitting people experiencing homelessness 	-Allows students to draw on lessons learned earlier in the semester (scaffolding) before initiating an activity
Letter to Future Students	12/7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Reflect on the objectives for the Experiments in Ethics -Write a letter, drawing on any relevant class materials discussing the pros and cons of the assignment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -“After taking this course, I have a more positive outlook on volunteering and charity as whole. I see just how truly accessible change is to an individual, and that gives me hope for the future of the world.” -“Overall, I think that the experiments in ethics definitely opened my eyes to things I would not have considered to care about if I had not taken this class.” 	-Allows students to make connections across course content and unite experiments as a singular assignment