

Essay #2: The Nature of Altruism

What conditions must an individual meet if she is to be properly credited with acting altruistically? Explain how Sober and Wilson answer this question and critically evaluate their answer. Describe and evaluate Batson's attempts to show that empathy causes altruism (so conceived). Does Batson succeed in showing that empathy causes altruism? Are there altruistic actions that have their source in something other than empathy? What role does altruism seem to play in shaping human interactions and maintaining families, communities and states over time? How strong a motivational force is altruism in comparison to perceived self-interest? What do the relative strengths of altruism and self-interest imply for economics and public policy?

5-6 pages double-spaced, normal font and margins (e.g. Word default settings Times 12 point).

Due 3/14/18