

Judges' Questions in Ethics Bowl

In Ethics Bowl, a panel of three judges has ten minutes to ask a team questions about the team's presentation. Here are typical questions you'll see posed.

Types of Ethics Bowl Questions:

1. Particular Moral Questions About the Case: These questions concern the specific elements of the case.
 - a. Is it wrong for Tyson to operate the (factory) farm in Iowa?
 - b. Is it wrong to operate (factory) farms?
2. General Moral Questions: These questions address the broader questions at play in the case.
 - a. When, if ever, would it be permissible to operate a (factory) farm?
 - b. When, if ever, is it permissible to cause animals harm in order to benefit humans?
 - c. Are there any limits to causing animals harm for the sake of humans?
3. Questions about (Moral) Rights: These questions concern rights as they relate to the case. Such questions can be particular to the case or more general.
 - a. Do animals have a right not to be reared in factory farms? (Particular)
 - b. Do animals have a basic right to life? (Particular)
 - c. Which right is more important: an animal's right to life or a human's right to pursue happiness (as they see fit)? (General)
 - d. What limits, if any, are there on an animal's right to life and to be free from human-caused suffering? (General)
4. Morality of Law Questions: These questions concern the legal implications of a moral question.
 - a. Should there be a law that bans factory farming? (Particular)
 - b. Should animals be granted a legal right to personhood? (Particular)
 - c. Are there some animals that should be granted personhood in the eyes of the law and some that should not? If so, where do we draw the line? (General)
5. Role-Play Questions: In these questions, responders are asked to take on the role of a stakeholder in the case.
 - a. Imagine you are a leader at Tyson Farms. What actions, if any, should you take in response to the negative publicity about your factory farms?
 - b. Pretend you are an animal rights activist. What is the best way to advocate against Tyson's farming practices?