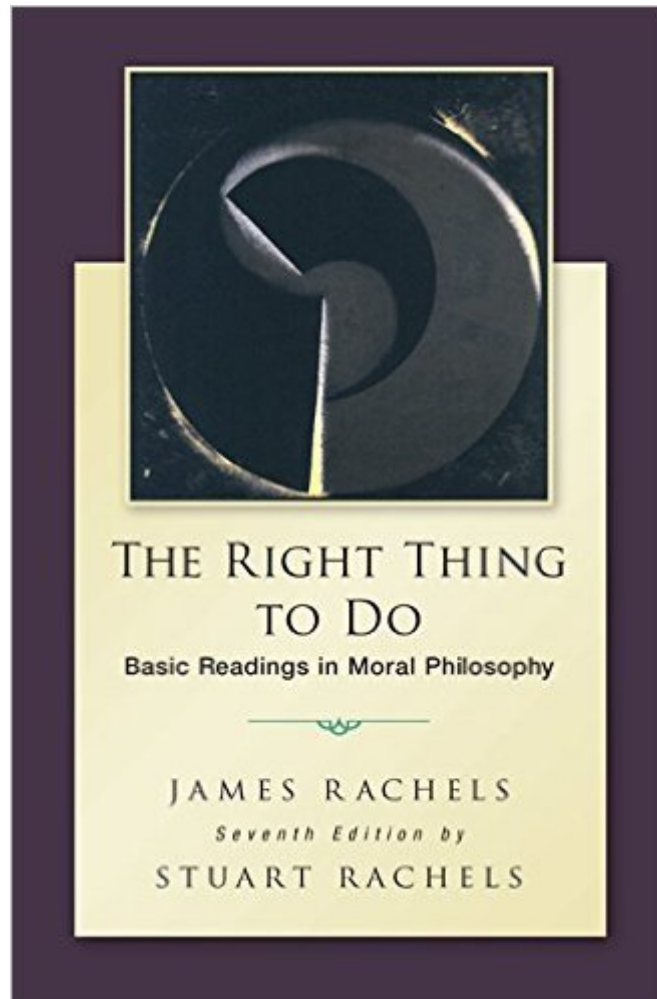


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# The Right Thing To Do: Basic Readings In Moral Philosophy



## Synopsis

The Right Thing to Do: Basic Readings in Moral Philosophy is a companion reader to the best-selling text: The Elements of Moral Philosophy (0-07-8119065). Authors James Rachels and Stuart Rachels offer engaging, thought-provoking essays on compelling issues that students are familiar with and understand. This rich collection of essays can be used on its own for a course on moral philosophy, or it can be used to supplement other introductory texts. Instructors and students can now access their course content through the Connect digital learning platform by purchasing either standalone Connect access or a bundle of print and Connect access. McGraw-Hill Connect® is a subscription-based learning service accessible online through your personal computer or tablet. Choose this option if your instructor will require Connect to be used in the course. Your subscription to Connect includes the following:

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## Customer Reviews

"The Right Thing to Do" attempts to cover both theoretical and applied ethics in a limited number of

pages. However, because of its attempt to remain brief, it fails to cover some interesting and significant issues in both areas of ethics. Although it does a little better in the theoretical section of the book, in the applied ethics portion it typically offers just a couple selections on each issue. Moreover, the introductions provided by the Rachels are quite brief and do not adequately prepare the reader for the articles that follow. There are other anthologies that do a far better job of providing a wide range of selections.

Natalia's response makes one wonder whether she herself was perhaps among the unfortunate babies born without a brain. Yes, if there were no other human beings in the world other than this one brainless baby, maybe I would keep the brainless baby around to help comfort me by reminding me of the lost human species. However, in fact there are lots of other human beings, most of whom have brains, so in reality there's no need to keep brainless babies around as pets. Natalia also seems to be unaware of what a brain is. Brainless babies do not experience pain or anguish. (Nor do they experience pleasure.) Without a brain, 'you' have no experiences of any kind, no beliefs, no desires, and you don't care about anything to any degree. It's just a body lying in a hospital bed. There's no such thing as being insensitive to such a thing, any more than you can be insensitive to a rock. If it's true that every object, including pebbles on the beach, has something to teach, then I'd rather learn from the rocks, which you don't have to expend thousands of dollars in medical bills to support. I don't know about the previous editions of this book, but the present edition is really not biased, unless in the sense of being biased towards rationality and quality. In the case of issues where there is significant debate in moral philosophy, there are articles explaining both sides (e.g., abortion). In some cases, there's only one article (e.g., on homosexuality), but these are the issues where there is almost no disagreement in the field, and you'd have to scrape the bottom of the barrel, admitting really low-quality pieces, if you insisted on having an opposing article.

It was a text book I was required to get for school and given the choice I would have not bought it willingly. It is not something I will not read again but all the same was mildly interesting and its subjects give much food for thought.

My sister bought this book as a text book for a introduction into philosophy class. I found it on the family book shelf later on and started flipping through it. The book is well written and interesting; although for the price there must be something better. I came on today looking for books to read on long trip and this came to mind. It has been a few years since I first read it and I'd like to read it

again. I highly suggest you read this book; regardless of the other reviewer (who's two criticisms come from the first chapter).

I just started back to school and am so glad i decided to check out the textbooks that has to offer. These books would of cost me roughly \$60 each but i found them on here for \$13!!!! And I'll be able to sell them back and get points towards my next semesters books! The books arrived in less than a week and in great condition!

This book provides a detailed analysis of the moral and ethical problems that our world faces. There are relatable examples that make learning moral theory fun and even provocative. This book is a great read for those that want to learn the moral theories that have been considered by centuries of philosophers. The idea that deciding exactly what the right thing to do has stumped mankind since the beginning of time is one worth pondering.

Very interesting, it is a requirement for the course I am taking in college Ethics. It is a very good book. If you have never taken an ethics class this book and The Elements of Moral Philosophy its companion book are a must.

DISCLAIMER: The 4 rating is a not-so-random guess, as I haven't read the whole book yet, but had to put a number down in order to give this critique of Natalia's post. As soon as I bought this book, I read the section on Infanticide, which Natalia so poorly criticized. Natalia's criticism is so poor that you don't even need to read the article to critique her criticism, but I thought I would read it first in case anyone thought differently. She basically argues that even in cases where the baby is a 'vegetable', that it's still good to keep him or her alive because of the benefits they will serve to others. Is there a less compassionate and more selfish position possible than this? I've read a few articles from this book, mainly essays by professional philosophers who give at least strong, if not compelling, arguments for their positions. Rachels himself is good philosopher, specifically a good ethicist, so I recommend him for the strength of his arguments and the lucidity of his writing.

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