



This Ethics Olympiad was held on Saturday 1/6/2013 and it was a great success. Hale School from Perth Western Australia competed against Austin HS in Tennessee and then competed against Bentley College in California. We used video conferencing technology in the first round and then Google + in the second round. Frankly the latter worked surprisingly well. Judges for this event included judges in Australia and in the US. The Aussie judges included Dr Laura D'Olimpio Philosophy lecturer at Notre Dame University and Chairperson of the Association for Philosophy in Schools and Dr Alan Tapper, Philosophy Lecturer at Curtin University co-author of the Senior Secondary text Philosophy and Ethics. In the States the judges included Dr. Don Olive, the Chair of Philosophy and Dean of Humanities at Carson-Newman College and John McClellan who teaches at Carson-Newman College.



The topics under discussion were;

- Is it moral to kill Mary so Jodie can live?
- Should the Red Cross/Red Crescent offer assistance to the Taliban?
- In what circumstances is it moral for a person to use secretive phone apps to keep track of another's whereabouts?
- Is Peter Singers proposed cap-and-trade system a moral way to address climate change?

The competition was based on a structure in the US called an Ethics Bowl. I recently observed the first National US High Ethics Bowl as a result of a scholarship I was awarded to visit the US and the UK during the last holidays. The Ethics Olympiad had the same excitement and gravitas as this amazing event.

For the record Hale won the first round convincingly against Austin HS Tennessee and this gave us confidence for the second round. We found ourselves facing a formidable team from Bentley California and we managed a draw.

Dr Matt Deaton from the University of Tennessee did a wonderful job moderating the discussions from the US and Simon Kidd from Australia helped as an assistant moderator at this end.

The students in Australia found the cases very stimulating and the comment made to me at the end was that they loved the opportunity to work as a team.



This was the best thing we have ever done as a school and these boys will remember this experience for the rest of their lives.

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