

Academic Writing Practice

Student Learning



Outcomes for this session:

- Learn about a writing task that students will do in Week 3
- Identify criteria that lecturers use to assess your written work



Ethics of IVF Screening

- You will do a short piece of writing based on the IVF screening scenario in Values Exchange
- You will then be given some feedback on your academic writing skills
- This is to:
 - give you guidance about how to maximise your potential in written assignments in this paper and all of your others
 - provide information to you about resources and services that will be useful to you
 - give you an opportunity to practise the type of reading and writing you will do in your first assignment for this paper

So, what does good academic writing look like?

Academic writing should be:

- easy for anyone to read
- formal
- structured
- supported with evidence
- grammatically correct
- presented well



Let's all be lecturers for a minute ...

We're going to mark one paragraph from an essay about the ethical issues involved in screening for deafness during the IVF process.

124568894

Kerry Armoire

Screening for deafness during the IVF process should be permissible in this country

During the in vitro fertilisation process, it is possible to screen for deafness. Using a deontologist's ethical perspective it is possible to argue that this is ethically right. During the in vitro fertilisation process, it is possible to screen for deafness. Using a deontologist's ethical perspective it is possible to argue that this is ethically right. During the in vitro fertilisation process, it is possible to screen for deafness. Using a deontologist's ethical perspective it is possible to argue that this is ethically right. During the in vitro fertilisation process, it is possible to screen for deafness. Using a deontologist's ethical perspective it is possible to argue that this is ethically right.

One key argument for the legalisation of screening for deafness during the IVF process is based on the principle of procreative beneficence. [Savulescu](#) (2001) explains procreative beneficence as an informed choice that a parent can make, based on genetic testing, in order to create the best life possible for their child. For example, in 2001, a lesbian deaf couple in the United States, wanted to have a deaf child using artificial insemination with sperm from a donor; the couple selected that donor because they knew he was deaf (Mundy, 2002, cited in Parker, 2007). One of the reasons the couple gave was that they would be less effective parents to a child that could hear than one who was deaf. Therefore, it could be argued that deaf parents selecting deafness for their child could best ensure the best possible life for that child. However, such a choice raises several moral questions.

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1. What is the main point made in the paragraph?
2. Why did the couple make their choice?

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main point
(topic
sentence)



evidence
(referencing)



linking words

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main point
(topic
sentence)



evidence
(referencing)



linking words

Procreative beneficence can enable parents to create the best life possible for their child. In 2001, a lesbian deaf couple in the United States wanted to have a deaf child using artificial insemination with sperm from a donor; that donor was deaf. The couple would be less effective parents to a child that could hear than one who was deaf. It could be argued that deaf parents selecting deafness for their child could best ensure the best possible life for that child. Such a choice raises several moral questions.



no topic sentence



no referencing



no linking words

Procreative beneficence can be enable parents to creating the best life possible for their child. In 2001, a lesbian deaf couple in United States wanted to have a deaf child use artificial insemination with sperm from a donor; that donor is deaf. The couple would be less effective parentu to a child that could hear than one who was deaf. It could be argueu that deaf parents selecting deafu for their child could best ensure the best possible life for that child. Such a choice raising several moral questions.

This example has grammatical errors in it.

How many can you find?

Procreative beneficence can enable parents to create the best life possible for their child. In 2001, a lesbian deaf couple in the United States wanted to have a deaf child using artificial insemination with sperm from a donor; that donor was deaf. The couple would be less effective parents to a child that could hear than one who was deaf. It could be argued that deaf parents selecting deafness for their child could best ensure the best possible life for that child. Such a choice raises several moral questions.

Procreative beneficence can enable parents to create the most epic life possible for there little one. In 2001, a lesbian deaf couple in the United States wanted to have a deaf child using artyficial insemination with sperm form a donor; that donor was deaf. The couple would be less effective parents to a child that could here than one who was deaf. You could argue that deaf parents selecting deafness for there child could best ensure the best possible life for that child. Such a thing raises a bunch of moral questions.

This example has errors of formality and spelling in it.

How many can you find?

How the lecturers will give feedback

A

- Use of source material

B

- Structure and development of answer

C

- Control of academic writing

D

- Grammatical correctness

E

- Qualities of presentation

Criteria A-D rated 1-4

4

appropriate

- excellent / no problems / accurate / very appropriate

3

appropriate

- good / minor problems / mainly accurate / largely appropriate

2

not appropriate

- only fair / some problems / often inaccurate / often inappropriate

1

not appropriate

- poor / major problems / inaccurate / inappropriate

Criterion E – appropriate or not appropriate

A

- Use of source material

4

3

2

1

appropriate

not appropriate

relevant information selected

from your readings



information integrated into the answer

logical flow between source material and writer's work



free from plagiarism

in-text referencing

reference list



Examples of referencing

in-text referencing

The emphasis of procreative beneficence on individuality negates the socially embedded nature of human existence (Parker, 2007).

reference list

Parker, M. (2007). The best possible child. *Journal of Medical Ethics*, 33(5), 279-283. Retrieved from <http://www.jstor.org>

B

- Structure and development of answer

4

appropriate

3

2

not appropriate

1

generic structure appropriate to the task

logical flow of ideas through paragraphs



focussed position statement

the answer to the question in one sentence



critical evaluation of evidence

interpretation of information in the readings



appropriate statement of conclusion

main points addressed

overall summary

C

- Control of academic writing

4

appropriate

3

2

not appropriate

1

language appropriately abstract and technical

academic vocabulary

ethics terminology

generalisations qualified where appropriate

specific information accurately communicated

logical flow of ideas

sequential points

linking words

D

- Grammatical correctness

4

3

2

1

appropriate

not appropriate

accurate sentence structure

subject, verb, object

punctuation

correct subject / verb agreement

IVF accounts for ...

decisions account for ...

consistent and appropriate tense choice, correctly formed

... has grown since 2012.

... grew during the previous decade.

correct use of articles

... in the case of

... spent on IVF

E

- Qualities of presentation

4

3

2

1

appropriate

not appropriate

spelling generally correct



correct formatting

use of punctuation



paragraphing reflects essay structure

introduction, body, conclusion



Full instructions for the task

- Using the resources attached to the scenario in Values Exchange, along with the weblink to the newspaper article on genetically engineering babies (Savulescu, 2012) and any other resources you may wish to include, provide a 300-400 word response using the theories of utilitarianism and/or deontology to argue for or against the following proposal:
- **It is proposed that screening for deafness during the IVF process should be permissible in this country.**
- Your work will need an introduction, body, and conclusion.
- You will need to use APA referencing:
 - make in-text references to four different texts (use the ones given)
 - include a reference list at the end of your response

Thank you

Student Learning

Phone: (09) 921 9840

Email: slc@aut.ac.nz

Webpage: www.aut.ac.nz/student-learning

You Tube <https://www.youtube.com/AUTStudentLearning>