

# First Ethics Bowl Essay Symposium

## Triton College - Spring 2026

### Call for Papers

#### Call for Papers!

The Behavioral Science Department is overjoyed to announce a call for papers for the First Ethics Bowl Essay Symposium at Triton College. All current Triton College students are welcome and encouraged to submit an essay analyzing, critiquing, and developing ideas on [case 11 of the Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl entitled "Inclusive Segregation"](#) (please find the case below). The student authors of the top three essays will be invited to present their work at the Ethics Bowl Essay Symposium. The first ranked essay presented at Ethics Bowl Essay Symposium will be awarded a \$ 100 prize.

#### Directions:

- Essays may analyze, critique, or develop any anthropological, ethical, philosophical, political, psychological, and sociological idea related to Case 11: Inclusive Segregation.
- Each student may submit only one essay.
- The maximum word count for an essay is 1,500 words, not including title and bibliography.
- Essays must be submitted as PDF or Word documents via email to [danielemanni@triton.edu](mailto:danielemanni@triton.edu) by 4/5/2026 at 11:59 pm CT.
- Essays must bear no identifying information (e.g. no first or last name) of the author.
- Selected authors must present their paper at the Ethics Bowl Essay Symposium on 4/30/26 between 1:00 and 3:00 pm; they must read their essay publicly and participate in a short question and answer session. Selected authors will be announced by 4/20/2026.
- Essays must be original and personal. Any case of plagiarism or use of AI is strictly prohibited and will result in an essay being withdrawn from the Symposium.
- For additional information you may contact Dr. Manni at [danielemanni@triton.edu](mailto:danielemanni@triton.edu).

#### Rubric for evaluation and award(s) panel

The award panel evaluating essay submissions will be composed by faculty from the Behavioral Science Department. The panel will select the top three essays using the following rubric:

- 1) How well the essay identifies the core issue of the case; 10 points.
- 2) How systematically and cohesively the essay defends its thesis about the core issue of the case; 10 points.
- 3) Whether and how well the essay considers positions different from the essay's own thesis; 10 points.

## Symposium and award

On 4/30/26 the authors of the top three papers will be invited to read their essays during the Ethics Bowl Symposium. Each author will read their essay and participate in a short Q&A session. After all essays are read, the award panel will cast the final vote to elect the winning essay.

## Case 11: Inclusive Segregation

One fictitious university found itself without a Resident Assistant (RA) for the new semester of the LGBTQ+ dorm and was forced to quickly find a replacement before the next term. University officials began looking for a new RA right away, but they were looking for one feature in particular: the new RA had to be queer. When no student with the right “qualifications” applied, officials turned to already-employed RAs. Staff began pressuring students to self-disclose whether they considered themselves part of the LGBTQ+ community, since only a queer RA was allowed to live and work in the LGBTQ+ dorm.

At a different school, all but two of the dorms are gender-inclusive—one for male students and one for female students. One student, Tam, who identifies as they/them, applied to live in the male-only dorm. Tam was assigned male at birth and feels more comfortable around men; however, since they no longer identify as “male,” the school turned down their application and moved a male-identifying student to the dorm instead.

Another university assigns dorms based on cultural backgrounds, and Radd, an albino Black student, applied to live in the African American housing community. Radd was accepted to the dorm but found that it might not be for him when the other students began to taunt him for not being “Black enough” to belong. Because of his albinism, he was often told he could “pass” as white.

These examples are just a few of the situations students are currently facing in the ever-changing climate of school and identity. College life is hard, and it is often even harder for students from marginalized groups who face an increased risk of discrimination and harassment. In an effort to help ease these challenges, colleges and universities have begun offering special housing options for marginalized communities, ranging from singleroom accommodations for students with disabilities to entire halls dedicated to students with shared cultural heritage. Multiple studies, such as one published in the *Journal of LGBT Youth*, have shown that providing safe spaces and dorms exclusively for members of marginalized communities benefits both the mental and academic well-being of these students.

Echoing the concerns of others, Simon Thompson, director of a student housing website, raised questions in a 2017 Higher Ed article about whether these efforts to “protect” students of different backgrounds might actually amount to self-imposed segregation. Applying to such programs often requires students to disclose their affiliation with a marginalized group, and

applicants might not even be allowed to join if they are not considered “marginalized enough” to truly belong. In a 2016 article in *The Guardian*, many students voiced concerns that having members of marginalized communities all living in one place might make them easier targets for hate crimes and send the wrong message—that instead of addressing discrimination, schools are choosing the easier option of separation.

However, some students argue that separate housing is still needed, but that the system of handling it could be better. Niko Powell, a college student and trans man, spoke about his experiences in a 2023 *USA Today* article. He explained that while he and many other students want to take part in special housing programs, the reality of such housing often fails to live up to schools’ promises and often comes with unexpected drawbacks, such as being relegated to off-campus or pricier dorms.