

Part I

Introduction Wordcount: 175

In "The Case for Animal Rights," Regan argues humans and non-human animals should be treated with equal respect. He claims experiencing subjects of life (ESLs) have a baseline equal inherent value. Regan defines an ESL as "a conscious creature having an individual welfare that has importance to us whatever [its] usefulness to others. [ESLs] want and prefer things, believe and feel things, recall and expect things (8)." For Regan, this equal inherent value dictates equal respect. In this essay, I will examine this premise of Regan's argument and outline an inductive line of reasoning to challenge the assertion that all ESLs demand equal respect. ESLs may assume greater levels of value beyond the baseline inherent value granted to them as ESLs. These differing levels dictate different levels of respect. I will argue these greater levels of value may be attained by some ESLs with higher reasoning. For the purpose of this argument, reasoning is defined as the capacity to make logical decisions based on personal or collective experiences of an ESL or group of ESLs.

Part II

- (1) [Assumption] All beings have inherent value as experiencing subjects of life [ESLs].
- (2) [Assumption] Non-human animals are ESLs.
- (3) [Assumption] All beings with inherent value have it equally, despite their usefulness to others
- (4) [From 3] Humans do not possess the same level of ability as one another, but all have equal inherent value as ESLs.
- (5) [From 3 and 4] **With equal inherent value comes the right to be treated with equal respect and to not do so is to act immorally.**
- (6) [From 3 and 5] All humans should be treated with equal respect.
- (7) [From 1 and 3] Non-human animals have inherent value as ESLs.
- (8) [From 3, 5 and 7] All non-human animals should be treated with equal respect.
- (9) [From 3 and 4] When comparing humans and non-human animals, there is no quality that would affect the two groups level of inherent value compared to one another.
- (C1) [From 9] Therefore, we should treat humans and non-human animals with equal respect.

Part III

- (1) [Assumption] All ESLs have inherent value.
- (2) ESLs can experience greater or lesser intensities of the components of life laid out in Regan's definition of ESLs based on factors such as predetermined biological factors of an ESL's species.
- (3) [From 2] Some species of ESLs may have the capacity for greater or lesser reasoning.
- (5) [From 2 and 3] Reasoning may allow ESLs to experience broader or more intense forms of the components described under the definition of an ESL - for instance, the ability to expect certain consequences.
- (5) [From 4] Broader or more intense experiences of ESL components from reasoning may constitute extra value; that is, more value beyond the baseline equal inherent value of all beings.

Environmental Ethics Paper Outline [On Regan's "The Case for Animal Rights"]

- (6) Beings with greater value should not be treated equally with beings of lesser value.
- (7) Humans and some other non-human animals have a greater reasoning than other of non-human animals
- (C) Therefore, **it does not necessarily follow that with equal inherent value comes the right to be treated with equal respect and to not do so is to act immorally.**

Notes:

- Notice in part 3 the author includes less signposting about the connections between premises. Try to ensure you make the structure of your argument as clear as possible to the reader to make your outline as effective as possible.
- I think her part 2 is especially well done!