



Reasoning with Ethics

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A Project of The School for Ethical Education | www.ethicsed.org

Ethics in action creates character.

Use this blog to:

1. Lead class discussions in social studies, civics, ethics or advisory classes.
2. Teach students skills to analyze cases with core ethical values.
3. Recognize skills in support of SEE's Tri-Factor Model of ethical functioning.

[Visit the online Ethics Blog.](#)

The Ethics of Designer Babies

A scientifically unverified claim of using the technology of CRISPR to edit the DNA code of laboratory embryos, which were successfully implanted in their mother's womb and resulted in the birth of twin girls has been reported by multiple news sources.

CRISPR DNA editing is known to impact DNA beyond the site of the desired editing and editing done in embryos can be passed onto future generations.

The gene editing in this case was meant to reduce the possibility of AIDS transmission. Associated risks are a reduction in resistance to flu viruses. In addition, the US and other nations have banned the application of CRISPR in human embryos until the technology and ethical challenges it presents can be addressed?

Assuming the CRISPR technology can be developed without harming other DNA coding (this is a big assumption), are there core values that are potentially compromised if it is used to create "designer babies?" Babies with targeted IQs, strengthen, height or other attributes? Students are encouraged to discuss the ethical implications of CRISPR technology being applied to genetically produce an advanced cohort of society.

Regarding the response sought for this issue, SEE welcomes students to post replies to questions for current cases on our website at http://bit.ly/Ethics_Case where more information is available for *Reasoning with Ethics*. A video link with more details for this archived case is provided here-

<https://www.cbsnews.com/video/chinese-researcher-claims-he-helped-make-first-gene-edited-babies/>

Contact information

The School for Ethical Education is a not for profit teaching agency in Milford, CT with the mission to advance strategies of placing ethics in action to create character. As a non-sectarian 501(C)3, SEE is supported by fees for service, grants and donations. For more information visit our website at www.ethicsed.org.

Is all genome editing ethical?

