



# TED Lesson: Would you sacrifice one person to save five?

By Eleanor Nelsen

[https://www.ted.com/talks/eleanor\\_nelsen\\_would\\_you\\_sacrifice\\_one\\_person\\_to\\_save\\_five](https://www.ted.com/talks/eleanor_nelsen_would_you_sacrifice_one_person_to_save_five)

## Warm up:

1. Do you like philosophy? What came first, the chicken or the egg?
2. Have you ever heard of the “Trolley Problem”?
3. Tell us about a sacrifice you have made. It could be small or big.

## Vocabulary:

|                            |                 |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Sacrifice                  | Utilitarian     |
| Trolley                    | Runaway trolley |
| Barreling                  | Instincts       |
| Divert                     | Intersection    |
| Ethical                    | Aversion        |
| Moral code                 | Criticized      |
| Virtual reality simulation | Premise         |
| Outweigh                   | Autonomous      |
| Condemning                 | Hypothetical    |

## Comprehension:

1. Describe the “Trolley Problem”. What is it? Who created it? What’s the purpose? etc.
2. According to the survey, what percentage of people said that it’s okay to flip the switch?
3. What is the philosophical principle of utilitarianism?
4. Are people more willing to sacrifice women than men?
5. Why is it important to discuss this kind of ethical issues in the modern age?

## Discussion:

1. What would you do in the “Trolley Problem” situation? Would you be able to sacrifice one person to save more people? What if the one person you are sacrificing is someone you love? What if the people you have to save are people you dislike?
2. Do you have a moral code that you live by? Do you know anyone who does?
3. Who taught you about “right” and “wrong”?