

## Simulation of Bentham and hedonic calculus

From Robert Comeau, [www.rjcomeau.com](http://www.rjcomeau.com)

- Have students in groups of three plan a case study they will perform for the class after 10 minutes of preparation.
  - **Group one:** Perform a scene where someone calculates a dilemma in which they reason through maximizing pleasure and minimizing pain. Show depth of reasoning in your calculations. Connect the calculations to quotes from the text that tell us how people should think about what to do.
  - **Group two:** Perform a scene where someone calculates a dilemma, producing more pleasure for themselves but more pain for society. Show depth of reasoning in your calculations. Connect the calculations to quotes from the text that tell us how people should think about what to do.
  - **Group three:** Perform a scene where the government creates sanctions that effectively steer an individual away from behavior that would yield more pain in a society, and/or steer him toward behavior that would yield more pleasure for society. Show depth of reasoning in your calculations. Connect the calculations to quotes from the text that tell us how people should think about what to do.
  - **Group four:** Perform a scene that shows the dangers of the individual relying on utilitarian calculations. Show depth of reasoning in your calculations. Connect the calculations to quotes from the text that tell us how people should think about what to do.
  - **Group five:** Perform a scene that shows the dangers of the government relying on utilitarian calculations. Show depth of reasoning in your calculations. Connect the calculations to quotes from the text that tell us how people should think about what to do.