

Discussion section debate #3

Background: Prior to *Hopwood v. Texas* (the 1996 Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals ruling), the University of Texas Law School used an affirmative action admissions policy that was designed to ensure that each incoming class was comprised of approximately 15 percent of applicants from certain minority groups. In order to meet this quota, the university set lower admissions standards for applicants from these minority groups than for nonminority applicants. The university intended this policy to increase the racial and ethnic diversity of the Texas legal profession. Subsequent court decisions held that it is unconstitutional for universities to use quotas—specific numerical targets based on minority status—in the admissions process.

Question: Set aside the constitutional question and focus on the moral question: Is it unjust (or otherwise morally impermissible) for universities to use quotas in the admissions process?

Group 1: Provide reasons to think that it is *unjust* (or otherwise *morally impermissible*) for universities to use quotas in the admissions process.

Group 2: Provide reasons to think that it is *just* (or otherwise *morally permissible*) for universities to use quotas in the admissions process.

Group 3: Discuss the debate rubric and use it to assess the debate.