Progress Report to the American Philosophical Association
Project Name: “Philosophy of Sport YouTube Channel and Essay Contest”

Benjamin Genta
September 30th 2019

To the members of the Board of the American Philosophical Association,

First of all, thank you very much again for your support of $750 for the project “Philosophy of sport YouTube channel and essay contest”.

Throughout this year, I have been working on launching the website Think About Sport and its associated YouTube channel. The generous support from the Berry Fund for Public Philosophy has allowed me to additionally offer an essay contest for high school students with prizes (though, the money awarded has yet to be disbursed to the students since the deadline of the essay contest is on December 31st 2019). Without this secure source of funding, launching the essay competition – the most vital part of the project – would have been impossible.

What has been achieved so far? To start, we have our first video available. It is a two-minute YouTube video on the question: what is a sport? Below is a link to the video. Joscelyn Stocks, an undergraduate animation student at the University of Southern California, created the video. Given the limited resources available (self-funded), I was only able to fund one short video. However, it is my hope that in the future I will be able to contract more animators to produce more such videos. The content of the video is easy to follow and is closed-captioned.

Second, I have recently launched the website Think About Sport (www.thinkaboutsport.com). It is on this website that one can find the information for the high school essay contest. The website features a link to the YouTube video. Furthermore, it has transcripts of my casual interviews with some philosophers (most of them philosophers of sport/games), with more of these interviews to come. The motivation for doing this was to give students an idea of what it is like to be a philosopher. The website also offers a ‘Resources’ page for students that are interested in further exploring the topics addressed; one of these links is to the website of the APA.

Third, I have officially launched the high school essay contest. There are two questions the students answer, in 750–1250 words: (1) is there a difference between a sport and a game? And, (2) what, if anything, distinguishes someone cheating from someone breaking the rules? The deadline for submission is December 31st 2019. I have secured the following graders, in addition to myself, for the essay contest:

• Allie Richards (MA student, Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy)
• Eugene Chua (PhD student, University of California – San Diego)
• Kathrin von Allmen (PhD student, University of Zurich)
• Mahmoud Jalloh (PhD student, University of Southern California)

The prizes will be allocated as follows: $500 (1st place); $200 (2nd place); $50 (3rd place). The grant from the APA will fund these prizes.
Now that the website and the YouTube channel have been launched, I will continue to contact schools (and specifically their athletic departments) throughout the nation to publicize the essay contest. Despite progress not having been up to the anticipated speed, the *Think About Sport* website and its associated YouTube channel offers rich resources to introduce high school students to the subject of philosophy. I am enthusiastic to have launched the essay competition and to see the results. None of this would have been possible without your generous funding.

Sincerely,
Benjamin S. Genta

Link to YouTube video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H8VTPOzxzJs&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H8VTPOzxzJs&feature=youtu.be)