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

Benjamin S. Genta
September 30th 2021

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”. So far, I updated and published the website Think About Sport and its associated YouTube channel, which features our first video. This is a two-minute YouTube video, created by Joscelyn Stocks – a University of Southern California undergraduate student – on the question: what is a sport? 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.

Furthermore, the website has transcripts of my casual interviews with some professional 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.

The generous support from the Berry Fund for Public Philosophy has allowed to additionally offer an essay contest for high school students with money prizes (https://www.thinkaboutsport.com/essay-contest).

Unfortunately, we have not yet been able to successfully implement the essay contest. Despite having secured graders, and having contacted numerous high schools by phone and email, I have received no submissions on the Google Form. This has been a setback, so I am launching another essay contest, with a deadline of January or February
2022. I believe that the difficulty was exacerbated by the pandemic, as many contacted schools seem to think that this is a scam, given the large sum of money offered. I will, however, multiply my efforts in contacting schools and trying to convince them of the legitimacy of the contest.

I have secured the following graders, in addition to myself, for the essay contest:

- Allie Richards (PhD student, University of Lisbon)
- 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. Without this secure source of funding, launching the essay competition – the most vital part of the project – would have been impossible.

Despite the setback, the Think About Sport website and its associated YouTube channel offers already a rich resource to high school students on the philosophy of sport. The main task this year will be in publicizing it, which I have not been very successful in doing. I am nevertheless hopeful in the prospects of the project, especially as the pandemic ends. I am enthusiastic to see the entries for the contest this year.

Sincerely,

Benjamin S. Genta

Link to Website:
https://www.thinkaboutsport.com/

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