

MAY 2024

CRITICAL THINKING NOODLER



If You Ran Things

News from Friday, April 26th

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In April, the U.S. Department of Transportation issued new rules to compensate stranded air passengers. The rules help fliers with canceled or delayed flights—or lost bags—receive timely refunds. They also require airlines to publish add-on costs, also known as “junk fees,” earlier in the buying process. The rules will take effect in October 2024.

If you were in charge of air transportation, how would you ensure a fair and pleasant flying experience for passengers? Create a set of rules that airlines must follow. Be sure to explain why the rules are helpful to fliers.

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Pros and Cons

News from Thursday, April 25th

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Nearly 40 scientists have signed a Declaration on Animal Consciousness, urging more humane treatment of every type of animal, from reptiles to insects to sea creatures. Why? Experiments by researchers have confirmed something that many pet owners have long suspected: animals may be sentient, meaning they think and have feelings just like people. Bees, fish, octopi and other animals have demonstrated their self-awareness by posing in front of mirrors, recognizing and acknowledging different humans, and having feelings, emotions, curiosity and even dreams. The scientists aren't alone in thinking animals deserve more rights: Oregon, Washington, and California all have different laws based on the same idea.

What are the pros and cons of creating laws that protect the rights of animals? Write a list in the space below, including at least two benefits of such laws and two downsides.

Pros:

1. _____

2. _____

Cons:

1. _____

2. _____

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Design It!

News from Thursday, April 25th

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Researchers from Denmark have found a way to make blue jeans more environmentally friendly. The classic color of denim comes from the indigo plant, which is broken down by strong chemicals to turn the fabric blue. The process results in chemical-laced water being dumped into nearby streams. Fortunately, scientists at the Technical University tweaked an enzyme in the plants to make it break down more easily, no chemicals needed. They were able to turn denim into its classic blue hue through a cleaner, less polluting process.

Imagine that you are in charge of designing environmentally friendly clothing. What would the clothes be made of? What would they look like? Draw some samples of the clothing in the space below. Be sure to add labels to identify how the clothes are eco-friendly.

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