

Interview Activity Feedback – The “dexterity” pill

Transcript

The Dean of your Faculty offers to all final year students the opportunity to take a “dexterity” pill. If taken, this pill would dramatically increase your ability to absorb all the educational material being presented to you in all your courses for the year. In fact, this pill would basically guarantee that you would receive an A+ in all your courses with a significantly reduced workload. Would you take the dexterity pill?

Example of another way to answer:

The Dean of my faculty is providing a dexterity pill to all 4th year students in my program. This dexterity pill will provide academic success and guarantees an A+ for the final year. I am going to look at this issue from a number of perspectives: economic, social and ethical and provide pros/cons for each.

Now from an economic perspective, while it may save me time, and allow me to focus on other aspects of my life such as volunteering, working, learning new things, and exercising, I will always wonder whether I was really able to accomplish what I did or just temporarily in performance-enhanced mode. Will the results of learning stay with me as permanently? Will I derive as much satisfaction from such an achievement as I would otherwise?

Um, from a social perspective, there are known and growing issues with drug abuse for performance enhancement, such as the use of Ritalin, which is a mental health disease drug. In my own experience, a few of my friends struggle with this issue every 4 months. Also, I don't know what the long-term effects of taking the dexterity pill may be to my long-term health.

From an ethical standpoint, there seems to be an unfair advantage over others at my level of study and ability outside the immediate classroom. We are part of a bigger body than just the classroom at my university, and I must respect the rules of fair engagement.

I would talk to the student body president about the issue and try to get them to investigate the underlying reasons for this action on behalf of all the students.

Given the above, in my opinion, the drawbacks outweigh the positives of taking the pill, and hence I would say no.