

***Into Thin Air* Ethical Issues Summary**

You are going to be writing two papers on this book, and this first one is intended to serve as preparation for the second. It should, however, also demonstrate your ability to make connections with issues and ideas raised in the first two papers on *Amsterdam* and “The Tragedy of the Commons.”

I want to make it clear that this paper should be neither a plot summary nor a summary of ideas as in your “Tragedy” paper. Instead, I want you to summarize the most important ethical issues you find in the book, describing the actions or situations in which the ethical questions arise and explaining the conflicts or problems involved.

To prepare to write this paper, you need to read the book quickly but carefully (take notes or use Post-it flags to mark all the pages that you may want to come back to). Answer your discussion questions also, as they will help you identify issues. You may want to review your notes on *Amsterdam* and “The Tragedy of the Commons” as well.

Your paper’s introduction can be relatively brief, but must, of course, identify the book and author. Avoid an argumentative thesis—save your strong opinion or judgment for the second paper. Instead, give your paper an expository thesis that just lets the reader know your focus.

Then develop the specific issues you have chosen in your body paragraphs. Give enough situational details to provide context for the issue, and then explain the conflicting pressures or ways of reasoning that make it a problem or dilemma. Connect your explanation to ideas we’ve already encountered in the course. Don’t try to argue a best solution here—just present the various points of view.

Your conclusion can also be brief but should bring the essay to a satisfying close.