**THE TROLLEY PROBLEMS[[1]](#footnote-1)**

*Before you start your short paper in week two, please read the two scenarios below and consider each carefully. This “Trolley” problem is a thought experiment, not an actual situation. Your exploration of such thought experiment will help you in learning the application of critical thinking before you address actual problems. One more hint: you can responds ONLY with “yes” or “no”—no other options should be considered for THIS exercise.*

**Trolley Problem I**
A runaway trolley will kill five people on the track ahead if it continues on its course. You are standing in the train yard near a switch. The only way to save the five people is for you to pull that switch and turn the trolley onto a side track. However, if you do so one person on that side track will be killed by the trolley. Do you pull the switch, saving five people but sacrificing one?

**Trolley Problem II**
A runaway trolley will kill five people on the track ahead if it continues on its course. You are standing on a bridge over the tracks, next to a very large stranger. If you push the stranger onto the tracks, his body will block the train from hitting the five others, saving them but killing him. Do you push him?

1. The original Trolley Problem was created by Professor Philippa Foot and the second version was created by Professor Judith Jarvis Thomson, both authors are mentioned by Waller. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)