# The Philosophic Café

In a past philosophy class, we, students and teachers, watched and participated in a lecture about solidarity, called “The Philosophic Café”.

In this session, some of the students were in outside, terrace like tables, in the school’s library, simulating the concept of the “café”. This students were the main participants, although not being the only ones, there were some in the “audience” who also interposed, as supposed.

It started by establishing the definition of solidarity and by distinguishing it of charity, after we all watched a small video by the Lipton Company, which is mainly known for its tea , as a advertising and contradiction of coffee. In this video, there was shown simple possible acts of solidarity, some of which were ignored but there were some people who actually helped the person who, for example, an old lady who had a lot of bags that she couldn’t carry or a mailman who dropped all the letters. From this examples, the students found others: one of them was doctors and jobs like this one. This was when a lot of opinions and ideas started to differ, including mine. A lot of the participants and audience considered the job of a doctor (helping in someone’s heath for money) an act of solidarity. If someone were to ask me my opinion, I think that in some cases, it can be considered solidarity because some doctors get out of their ways and obligations to help a patience but there are also a lot of doctors who only do it because of the money and they don’t really care about who they are helping or not. With this said, I believe that, in this type of cases, we could only distinguish a doctor (or other job) as an act of solidarity if they didn’t have all the privilege that have in the majority of the situations. This way, those who were actually trying to help others because they wanted to, would be separated from the ones who don’t.

This was basically a way to say that, in my opinion, solidarity can only be considered as such in a circumstance where the person is doing something just, and only, because (s)he wants to help.