ESSAY QUESTION

For all the wide breadth and diversity of our planet, occasional crises reveal how vulnerably small and interconnected we are. The heartbreaking toll the Ebola virus has taken on the citizens of West Africa’s countries now threatens not only the rest of that seemingly vast continent, but also other immense continents – Asia, Europe, and of course the Americas, where in our own backyard Ebola has already arrived in Dallas and New York, with other quarantines as near to Wheeling Jesuit’s campus as in the neighboring state of Ohio. Ebola’s arrival in the United States traveled two symbolically significant routes: carried here first from Liberia by a man seeking the kind of care only a rich Western nation can provide, and then later from Guinea, carried by one of the caregivers himself, who had been working to address the health crisis at its source. Joel Achenbach of The Washington Post argues that “Africa’s Ebola problem is now America’s Ebola problem,” but the example of Craig Spencer, the young, idealistic doctor quarantined at New York’s Bellevue Hospital, suggests some of our country’s citizens believed Ebola was America’s responsibility before the virus ever reached our shores and became our “problem.” What is America’s responsibility in the Ebola crisis – both to its own citizens and to our neighbors (as, as this crisis has reminded us afresh, are much nearer than we sometimes think)? Should the U.S. be doing a better job of protecting ourselves from irresponsibly transmitted contagions, or should we be expanding the reach of our superior financial and medical resources to offer relief to less advantaged peoples and nations?

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR COMPLETED ESSAY IN TWO FORMS:

1. **Hard Copy (Postmarked by 1/9/15):**
   - Prof. John W. Whitehead
   - Director, Honors Program
   - Wheeling Jesuit University
   - Wheeling, WV 26003

2. **Electronic Copy (Sent by 1/9/15):**
   - Attach a Word file
   - Email to: lautscholarship@wju.edu

(We will acknowledge receipt of email submissions.)

Please direct all questions to Prof. John Whitehead, Director of the Honors Program:
1-800-624-6992, x2353; or email johnww@wju.edu