

Reflection Paper Instructions

You will submit a 3-page double-spaced (12-point type, Times or Times New Roman type) ethical reflection paper. I want to be clear that when I asked for three (3) pages, that means three (3) FULL PAGES, not two full pages with a couple of lines on the third.

You will submit three reflection papers by these deadlines:

- Sunday, September 23 by 11 p.m.
- Sunday, October 28 by 11 p.m.
- Friday, December 14 by 11 p.m.

Your assignment is to develop an ethical question you might have from our readings, the news, or your own life that interests you. Be specific. Don't ask Is abortion or euthanasia or genetic engineering wrong? Rather find a specific circumstance or incident within these overall topics to explore. Think about what you wrote when you explained what ethical questions you think are important to discuss. Perhaps that might be a start for your exploration of an ethical question. Or, if you wish to discuss what we have read in our first three weeks regarding the religious approach to ethics.

The point of this exercise is not to "prove" what you already believe, but to make a serious and open-minded inquiry into an issue before coming to a conclusion.

Here are also some online resources for you that will help you in choosing your topics and your research:

- **The Markkula Center for Applied Ethics at Santa Clara University** is a center for research and dialogue on ethical issues in critical areas of American life. Go to: <https://www.scu.edu/ethics/> The "focus areas" and "ethics resources" sites on their webpage will be especially helpful.
- You also have all of the sites I listed on your syllabus:
 - **Everyday Ethics/BBC Radio Ulster:** <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02nrsmh/episodes/downloads>
 - **Everyday Ethics:** <https://www.everydayethics.org/podcasts/>
 - **Practical Ethics/Ethics in the News:** <http://blog.practicaethics.ox.ac.uk>
 - **Ethics Alarms:** <https://ethicsalarms.com>
 - **The Ethicist:** <http://www.nytimes.com/column/the-ethicist?qa&scp=1-spot&sq=&st=nyt>

*If hyperlinks don't work, try cutting and pasting.

Other Possible Websites to use for weekly discussions:

- ***Los Angeles Times:** <http://www.latimes.com/>
- ***New York Times:** <http://www.nytimes.com/>
- ***Washington Post:** <http://www.washingtonpost.com/>
- **Huffington Post:** <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/news/ethics/>

- **The American Conservative:** <http://www.theamericanconservative.com>
- ***Newsweek:** <http://www.newsweek.com/>
- ***Time:** <http://www.time.com/time/>

There are many more such resources, which I urge you to explore.

Here is the basic format that will help you make sure your paper is complete:

1. The first part is to state the ethical question, and give a brief background of its circumstances.
2. The second is to present an array of possible answers to this question. The first point of view, a contradictory point of view, and perhaps something different altogether. You must use the arguments of real people involved with the issue. No hypotheticals. You must give each point of view a fair hearing. The sources you use for this will be those you will get from the library or if you go online, only from online academic or valid news sources, including articles from the CSUN Database.
3. The final part is to state your own conclusion to your question, and why you have arrived at this conclusion.
4. The fourth part will be the bibliography, or formal listing of the works used to write this paper. It will be in addition to your three full page paper. In other words it will be your 4th page.

Your grade will depend on the following:

1. The strength of your question: Is it relevant to the topics covered in the course? Is it concise and manageable? (20% of the grade)
2. The strength of your sources: Do they fairly represent the various points of view on an issue? Did you cite them properly? (Below you will find information about the proper ways to cite sources both in the text and in the bibliography. (20% of the grade)
3. Your interpretation of the sources: Have you understood what they are saying? Did you state them fairly, or have you misstated or distorted them in a biased manner? (20% of the grade)
4. The strength of your conclusion in relation to your sources: Does your conclusion make sense in relation to the information you provided from your sources. (20% of the grade)
5. The overall care you have taken in relation to your writing (grammar, spelling, etc.), your paper's construction, whether or not it was Three FULL PAGES, and whether or not your bibliography was included as your 4th page. (20% of the grade)

Several very important warnings:

1. Wikipedia is not permitted as a source for a scholarly paper.

2. You must properly cite your sources. You may use the citation style of your choice (MLA, APA, Chicago, etc.) For more information, go to: <https://libguides.csun.edu/research-strategies/citing-sources>

2. Although you may use sources you find on the Internet, they must be academically sound sources, and you must cite them explicitly. The general form of a citation from an Internet source is: Author's name. Title of Document. Title of Website. Sponsor of Website. Date of Document. Date of Access. URL.

Anything else IS NOT ENOUGH.

3. I am going to repeat again that it must be 3 full pages with a 4th page for bibliography.

Research/Writing Resources:

Begin by reading Appendix 1: How to Write an Ethics Paper in Morrow's book, pages 138-149.

Use the "Readings" (Part V) of Morrow's book for ideas, which include Moral issues about sex, race, abortion, euthanasia, capital punishment, torture, war, animals, global poverty and climate change. You must still find specific issues to discuss, but you may use these section as a resource.

I urge you to go to the Oviatt Library's Website for "Research Strategies":
<http://libguides.csun.edu/research-strategies>

For help with writing, go to: <https://www.csun.edu/undergraduate-studies/learning-resource-center/university-writing-center-and-freshman-tutor-lab>

Finally, you will submit your research paper to our RS 361OL Turnitin site. This site examines your work for possible plagiarism. If you plagiarize your paper, you will get a 0. For more information about plagiarism, go to: <https://catalog.csun.edu/policies/academic-dishonesty/>