



What is Love?

Length: around 1,000 words

Final Draft Due: Sunday, September 13th (by midnight)
100 points



Name _____

Description:

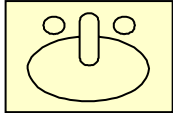
In the English language we have but a single word for the complex, multifaceted, all-encompassing emotion/virtue/commitment of love. However, as we have learned in class discussion and our reading and study of Carrie Jenkins' *What Love Is* love has meant many different things to many different people throughout human history. (Even to the various people in our classroom, love can mean and require a number of things). This complicates matters when considering sensitive romantic quandaries involving matters of "love." To put our ethical knowledge to the test, I'm asking you to compose a brief essay regarding a common case study.

Choose one of the scenarios below, and interpret, explore, and embellish it as you see fit. Then, apply the wisdom of the ancients to your chosen situation, explaining how and why one would and should act in this case. Finally, render your own personal definition/ decision on the proper "loving" course of action, after you have carefully considered a number and ethical models. Here's some options—or come up with your own scenario and pitch it to your professor:

- One partner is urging her significant other to have sexual intercourse, though the partner is reluctant to take this step. "Sex is an important part of love," the seducer claims...
- A long marriage has lost its passion, and the partners are now more like roommates...
- A committed couple is considering an open relationship that includes sex with other partners...
- One partner in a relationship has "cheated" without consent of the other. Asking for forgiveness, the cheater reasons that "if you really loved me, you'd take me back..."
- One person breaks up with another, explaining "I love you, but just as a friend..."
- A couple wants to get married but leave God out of their vows of love (and marriage).
- Your younger sibling has fallen in love for the first time—or is this really true love?
- You're interested in dating someone, but they assert they "don't really believe in love."

Successful papers will:

1. Begin with a compelling introductory paragraph which engages the reader, transitions to the subject, and offers a controlling idea for your essay
2. Lay out and flesh out the ethical scenario you are considering.
3. Sample/ survey a variety of **applicable** theories of love, as collated in *What Love Is*
4. Position your argument with regard to our study of various **applicable** ethical systems, including utilitarianism, virtue ethics, deontology, and ethics of care, from *Theory and Practice*
5. Use, paraphrase, quote, and cite from the books we have read
6. Conclude by offering your personal evaluation of the scenario after considering the above
7. Use an effective structure that carefully guides the reader from one idea to the next, and be thoroughly edited so that sentences are readable and appropriate for an academic audience.
8. Be properly formatted according to MLA guidelines, including in-text citations and a full works cited

	Extraordinary (A)	Good (B)	Average (C)	Poor (D)	Execrable (F)
Strength of Analysis					
Satisfaction of prompt					
Use of Evidence					
Organization Flow Efficiency					
Spelling, Mechanics, Punctuation					
Transitions, Introduction, Conclusion					
Adherence to MLA Format					

Evaluation

An “A” paper will:

Be extraordinary. Answer all aspects of the prompt in detail, making points above and beyond what is required. Offer keen and incisive analysis, seamless integration of quotes and textual evidence, and ample, skilled use of these. Include nearly flawless grammar, spelling, punctuation, and mechanics. Be organized in a clear and orderly fashion. Display higher-level thought and consciousness of the rhetorical situation. Be precisely formatted according to MLA guidelines.

A “B” paper will:

Be quite fine and good. Feature a cogent argument and analysis, without the pop and sizzle of an extraordinary paper. Be formatted correctly. Have an error here and there but not as many as to be distracting. Answer nearly all of the prompt nearly perfectly. Offer an interesting and worthwhile introduction and conclusion.

A “C” paper will:

Be average. More or less answer the prompt. Be error-ridden, so much so that the reading the paper approaches distraction. Offer vague and shallow analysis. Be light on evidence, or use it improperly. Have awkward transitions. Be repetitive. Say little worth reading.

A “D” paper will: Fail to address much of the prompt. Implement an organization/format that is confusing or nonsensical. Have nothing to say and rely on vagaries and topicless invention for large swaths of the paper. Be full of errors. Use incorrect formatting. Fail to meet the page-length minimum.

A “F” paper will: fail to address the prompt in any substantive way. Often these papers are panic-produced drafts, plagiarized, or entirely fabricated. Any paper at this level should be followed by a frank student-professor conference to discuss the requirements of college-level writing.