

BioEthics paper description

Make sure you read through this entire document – pay special attention to section 3g that describes the three sections that your paper should contain as well as a note reminding you to include a discussion of ethical theories/principles in your paper. The end of this document contains the paper’s grading rubric.

1. Choose a topic; feel free to discuss possibilities with me! Unfortunately, we do not have enough time to cover every bioethics topic in one term. This is your chance to explore a topic that you would like to learn more about!

- a. Once you have picked a topic, begin to find information.
- b. A working bibliography a list of sources you are using to write your paper. By no means is this a final bibliography. As you progress you may find additional sources or end up not using a source in your paper.
- c. Look at section 3f for a guide as to which sources are acceptable and how many you need. Again you may have more sources on your working bibliography than you end up using and that’s okay.

Use APA or MLA format for creating your bibliography. See <http://research.northern.edu/content.php?pid=175231> for citation guidelines.

2. Develop a question and research your topic so that you can prepare an outline that contains all of the information needed to write a paper.

- a. Your outline should contain three major sections, as listed below in 4g.
- b. Use abbreviated outline form, but do not use single words. Use phrases. If you prefer to sentence form, that’s fine.
- c. Make sure to use APA or MLA format for **internal citations** throughout your outline. **Remember to cite any information that you get from an outside source, not just direct quotes.**

3. Write a paper that contains the following.

- a. A cover page with the title, your name, and date submitted.
- b. About 2000 to 2500 words to cover the topic. This works out to be about 6- 7 pages using a word processor’s (i.e. Microsoft Word, iWorks Pages) default, 12-point font, double-spaced with 1-inch margins on all sides.
- c. Keep quotations to a minimum. More is not necessarily better. Although your paper should contain some appropriately placed quotes, it should not consist entirely of someone else’s ideas or opinions.

d. Internal citations for quotes, internal citations for any information that is not ‘common knowledge’ and paraphrasing throughout the paper, documented according to APA or MLA format. See <http://libraryguides.library.clark.edu/citing-sources> for information on MLA and APA format.

e. A “Works Cited” (reference) page with references documented according to the MLA or APA format. All “Works Cited” references must have an internal citation in the body of the paper referring back to them. See <http://libraryguides.library.clark.edu/citing-sources> for information on MLA and APA format.

f. A *minimum* (more may be required) of 6 reference sources.

1. None may be from a general encyclopedia, or Wikipedia.org.
2. Two from a Scientific Journal (See <http://library.clark.edu/?q=content/cite-sources> to get started researching),
3. The others may be from any of the above, or an appropriate internet site, a printed source etc. You may have more than 6 references. Be careful about the sources you choose to use; some of them are not carefully edited or contain false information.

g. Your paper should include the following three sections:

1. A section introducing the bioethical question and containing scientific background information and a historical perspective. The biological basis of the topic must be addressed and explained in this section. Be specific, and discuss how the biotechnology works if appropriate.
2. The viewpoints about the bioethical issues with a substantive section explaining the various perspectives. Discuss each viewpoint and describe the arguments supporting that viewpoint. Do not argue for any one perspective, yet. (Make sure the citations are complete and correct).
3. Take an ethical stand, and argue the ethical viewpoint constructively. Back your argument with ethics supporting your viewpoint of the ethical issue. Your argument should be scholarly, not based on an emotional response. Cite any sources you use and base your response in ethics. Use third person. The word “I” should never appear in your paper.

IMPORTANT NOTE: This is an ethics paper, so you must include a discussion of **specific** ethical theories and principles. In the first two weeks of class, we discuss Deontology, Consequentialism/Utilitarianism, Virtue ethics and Principlism (the principles of autonomy/respect for persons, beneficence/nonmaleficence and justice). Any of these may be used, but there are other theories and principles that exist that you may want to research and use. Please contact me to discuss if you’ve found theories not discussed in class and we can figure out if and how to apply it! You may include it in the section(s) that makes sense to you within the framework of your paper. Either the viewpoints and/or the ethical stand section generally work well

Grading Overview:

Topic: 10 points

Working Bibliography: 20 points

Outline: 20 points

Paper: 300 points

Peer review: 50 points

Paper Grading Rubric

- 1) Introduction – 50 pts. total
 - a) Introduces bioethical question 10pts.
 - b) Gives adequate background and historical perspective 40 pts.
- 2) Viewpoints 60 pts. total
 - a) Viewpoint(s) in favor discussed in detail. 30pts.
 - b) Viewpoint(s) against discussed in detail. 30pts.
- 3) Take an ethical stand 50 pts.
 - a) Ethical stand clearly stated and complete. 20 pts.
 - b) Argument for ethical stand scholarly/written in an academic tone (does not use the first person: e.g. I, me, my etc.). 20 pts.
 - c) Response supported by your sources. Internal citations are used to develop your argument. 10 pts.
- 4) Discussion of ethical theories/principles - 60pts. total
 - a) Ethical theories accurately represented 30pts.
 - b) Ethical theories/principles reinforce the viewpoints and/or stand. 30pts.
- 5) Works Cited Section/Format 80pts. total
 - a) Correct number of sources (6 or more, 2 from scientific journal) and appropriate to the topic 10pts.
 - b) Proper length (About 2000 to 2500 words) 10pts.
 - c) Internal citations for quotes 10pts.
 - d) Internal citations for information that is not common knowledge and paraphrasing throughout the paper, documented according to MLA/APA format. 20pts.
 - e) Readability/Grammar 30pts.