

Expectations for the Papers

Assignment:

- A 1000 word paper arguing persuasively for a thesis regarding the subjects discussed in class readings, lectures, &/or 4th Hour postings.
- All papers should interact with the Dalai Lama's *Ethics for the New Millennium* and at least one article from the syllabus or 4th Hour postings. You may critique *ENM* if you think it problematic. Outside articles are optional.
- Proposed prompts are below.

Please Observe the Following Formalities:

1. The papers should aim for 1000 words (3-4 pages). Please be within the 950-1050 word range. Please include page numbers and indicate the number of words at the end of assignment.
2. Assignments should follow the writing prompts provided unless the instructor has given prior approval.
3. Title pages are not necessary.
4. Please put your name on the paper.
5. Please use fonts like: Times New Roman, 12 point or Helvetica 10 point.
6. Please put page numbers on each page, with "1" on the first page.
7. Quotations **must** be cited with "quotation marks" and the page number / reference **must** be given in either parentheses (MLA) or as a footnote.¹ Please be consistent. **Failure to cite is a severe problem.** See examples below.
8. Please have a works cited page.
9. Please submit Papers via CANVAS on the designated day by the beginning of class.

Citation Examples:

- OK:** Socrates confessed, "I am quite conscious of my ignorance" (*Apology*, 44).
OK: Socrates confessed in the *Apology*, "I am quite conscious of my ignorance" (44).
OK: Socrates confessed, "I am quite conscious of my ignorance."²

What you need to do to write a good paper:

1. Argue persuasively for a concise thesis statement using:
 - a. Evidence from the texts
 - b. Careful logic
 - c. Clear language
2. Have a clean paper that is free from grammatical errors and typos.
3. Have an interesting paper that is neither overly timid nor carelessly bold.
4. The best structure for a paper is to:
 - a. State your thesis in an opening paragraph
 - b. Prove your thesis, per #1 above
 - c. Conclude your case with a short paragraph telling the reader what you've accomplished.

¹ According to the formalities of the Chicago Style Manual.

² Plato, *Apology in The Last Days of Socrates*, trans. by Hugh Tredennick (London: Penguin Books, 2003), 44/21d.

Possible Prompts

1. Nuclear Weapons [are / are not] a *malum in se* and so [do/do not] violate just war theory.
2. Just war theory is [relevant / irrelevant] for guiding our use of drone technologies in modern warfare.
3. Snowden (&/or Binney) [have/have not] betrayed our country.
4. A.I. Drones [will / will not] make life happier and society more harmonious.
5. Computers [will / will not] or [should /should not] be able to love humans.
6. My iPhone [did/did not] kill 17 people.
7. The internet [should / should not] be censored by governmental authorities, like in China
8. The USA is a [dystopia/utopia] for Miss Sharyl, D.Watson.
9. Robots [will be/won't be] human. -OR- Humans [should be /should not be] robots. -OR- Humans [are / are not] very human.
10. The Turing Test &/or the Chinese room argument [is / is not] worthwhile in defining consciousness.
11. "To be human" chiefly means _____.
12. In the NY Times "Portraits of Reconciliation" article Dominique Ndahimana says, "The day I thought of asking pardon, I felt unburdened and relieved. I had lost my humanity because of the crime I committed, but now I am like any human being." Working with the Dalai Lama and Ray Kurzweil on what it means to be human, argue that forgiveness [is /is not] necessary to being human.
13. Ray Kurzweil defines *love* as pooling "resources, intelligence, and memories" (*Singularity is Near*, p.26) Is this what love is? Compare and contrast to the Dalai Lama's perspective and argue for the superiority of one or the other.
14. Argue for or against the successfulness of John Seattle's Chinese Room.
15. Aung San Su Kyi argues, "technological advances have created lethal weapons which could be, and are, used by the powerful and the unprincipled to dominate the weak and the helpless." Do government surveillance programs such as Stellar Wind and PRISM qualify as lethal weapons? What resources does the Dalai Lama offer for thinking about the surveillance state?
16. Democracy [is/is not] compatible with a successful surveillance state.
17. MLK's "Beyond Vietnam" speech [is/is not] amazing because _____ and [has/does not have] significant resources for teaching us about _____.
18. If we have the resources to do so, humans [should/should not] choose to prolong their lives indefinitely.
19. Peter Singer's "drowning child" argument [is/is not successful] in motivating us give to the poor.
20. [Nietzsche / The Bible / Greek Myths] give the most helpful resources for understanding the ethical issues of technological advance.
21. Google [is/is not] the next (or current?) hegemonic power in world.
22. As the largest company in the world, Apple [poses / does not pose] a greater threats to our freedoms than does the NSA.
23. George Gilder is [right/wrong] in his assertion that intelligence is the most valuable natural resource.
24. Pick one of the Dalai Lama's key concepts (*kun long, shen-pen kyi-sem, nying je, ten del, nyong mong, sô-pa*) and argue it [has/does not have] guidance to offer regarding a particular technological problem.
25. Create your own. Checking with the professor is recommended, but not required.

REMINDER

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