

# M3A Assignment

1.

- a. *“Essays for this course should be long enough to deal adequately with the assigned topic.”*: we do not know how long would be enough and we do not know how adequate it will have to be to deal adequately with the assigned topic.

*“You should sign our petition to protest against the violation of our rights by the government.”*: it is vague because we have no idea who “our” refers to. Not sure but, maybe it is also vague because no specific right or number of rights that were being violated were mentioned.

*“If you persist in this course of action, all hell is going to break loose.”*: it is vague because we know there will be negative consequences, but we have no specific idea what they will be or how bad they will be.

- b. *“Harold told me that he would do it next week.”*: we have no idea whether “he” refers to Harold or another man who is going to do it next week.

*“The government has provided constant funding for post-secondary education over the last three years.”*: we have no idea if the funding was provided for the “post-secondary education” institutions or the individuals who are going to get a post-secondary degree. (Distributive vs. collective)

- c. *“He promised to pay Stephanie and Michael \$50 to clear all the junk out of the basement and take it to the dump.”*: it is ambiguous because it is not clear whether he promised to pay Stephanie and Michael for him to clear the junk out of their basement and take it to the dump or he promised to pay Stephanie and Michael for them to clear the junk out of his basement and take it to the dump.

*“Ashley strode out of the studio with Nikki following her, saying, ‘I’ll never give him up.’”*: we have no idea whether it was Ashley or Nikki who said “I’ll never give him up.”

*“Jim and I have suffered tremendously; often I wake up in the morning and wish I were dead, and I know Jim does too.”*: it is ambiguous because we have no idea whether Jim also wishes the speaker was dead or Jim wishes he (refers to Jim) was dead.

*“Women with babies who attend university encounter all sorts of exceptional challenges.”*: it is ambiguous whether the women or the babies are the ones who attend universities.

2.

- a. *“No rational person ever commits suicide”* → it is vague because “rational” could mean one thing for the speaker and another for the audience. Rationality (which is vague here) is a

sufficient condition not to commit suicide. It is synthetically false.

- b. Thou shalt not kill. → referential ambiguous because it could refer to 2+ things that we shouldn't kill such as humans, animals, and plants. We have no idea whether it refers to killing anything or everything or some things. It is synthetically true.
- c. We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness → it is synthetically true.
- d. *Politician*: As far as we are concerned an impartial dispute-settling mechanism is an essential precondition for any free trade deal between Canada and the United States.  
*Interviewer*: So you are saying, then, that you would support a free trade deal as long as the Americans accept an impartial dispute-settling mechanism. → impartial dispute-settling mechanism is a necessary condition.
- e. Adding Courses: All course additions to a student's program for a particular semester are to be completed by the end of the six-day add period. The addition of a course after the end of the add period will be considered only in exceptional circumstances and will require the approval of both the instructor for the course and the program counselor of the program in which the student is registered. The program counselor's signature should be sought first but does not presume the judgment of the instructor as to the appropriateness of the late addition for his or her particular course → the program counselor and the instructors' signatures collectively are both a necessary condition if the addition of a course happens after the 6-day period.