Bianca Anjela Rey 1-13

**PRIMAL FEAR PAPER**

1. What moral theory or theories are practiced by the main characters in Primal Fear? Cite the instances and explain.

There main characters practiced different moral theories in the film. Martin Vail, for instance, practiced egoism because he only takes on jobs for money and fame rather than for the sake of the greater good. He does everything in his power to get his rich clients off the crimes they commit even though at times, they should be convicted. This then led him to the case of Aaron Stampler, who is an altar boy who got accused of killing an Archbishop. Like Vail, Aaron is also practicing Egoism because he pretended to have a mental illness just to avoid getting sentenced to jail and was sent to a mental institution instead. This is also applicable to the archbishop, who was sexually harassing the altar boys, and to the civic leaders in their community who have been corrupting and sending death-threats to the archbishop. Janet Venable, Vail’s ex-girlfriend, however, was different and was practicing Utilitarianism. She was trying to be fair all through out the trial even though he was connected with Vail, she still tried her best to be fair for both parties.

2. How should the main characters have acted if they followed your moral system? Explain and elaborate.

The moral system that I try to live by is utilitarianism. I try to do what’s best for everyone even though that might take a lot of courage and strength. If everyone in the film have followed this, I believe that the plot would have been different. Vail would’ve been more just and fair as a lawyer and would only fight for those who are right rather than those who could only pay him high amount. Aaron, on the other hand, would not have killed the archbishop but would rather find another way to expose or stop him without having resulted to death. The archbishop would have been a better person, and never would’ve harrassed the altar boys. Instead he would be true to his oath and duty to the church and to the Lord. The civic leaders and the prosecutors also would’ve have been fair and wouldn’t be blinded for money. Instead they would do what is right for the community and the country that they serve.