

Final Exam Prep

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On the final exam I'll give you a series of arguments (like these) and ask you to do a few things. First, put each one in standard form. You'll want to make sure the version of the argument you put forward is valid (we want to be charitable). Second, identify a fallacy committed by the argument. Third, write a short paragraph explaining how the argument commits that fallacy.

This handout is a place to practice for the final. Do those three things with these arguments.

1 Life sentences

The Equal Justice Initiative's effort to extend a Supreme Court ruling barring life sentences without parole to those convicted for killings committed at age 13 or 14 is a step in the right direction.

In earlier decisions on juvenile sentencing, the Supreme Court made important assertions that apply to all juvenile offenders—particularly the absence of an "irretrievably depraved character" and a greater capability to change.

The sentence of life in prison without parole for any juvenile offender is a sentence to die in prison. It obliterates all possibility and all incentive for a young person to become rehabilitated.

The United States is the only country in the world that sentences juvenile offenders to life in prison without parole. Such sentences should be abolished.

2 Animal Rights

Bistro Niko has come under fire from animal rights activists for not caving in to their demands, and for continuing to serve foie gras.

For years, farmers have been fattening up geese and ducks for food by force-feeding them. Now, because some activist believes it is inhumane to force-feed an animal for the last 12

to 18 days before slaughter, the general public should not be able to have a dish which is considered by many to be a delicacy.

It is not as if the farmers only harvested the liver and threw the rest of the animal away. The entire bird is used for food.

Activists, if you donât like foie gras, donât eat it. If you donât like goose or duck, by all means, leave it alone. But you should have something better to do than stand on the side of the road holding signs in the air equating the practice of gavage with hating animals. You need to get a real life.

3 Energy

I believe it's time to close Georgia's nuclear plants. The environmental damage (now being demonstrated in Japan) could just as easily happen here. Even if such an accident never occurred, the normal waste products will last for years.

Our current government canât even manage to save Social Security monies for 70 years. How

do they propose to save monies to safeguard nuclear waste materials for thousands of years?

Using nuclear power is just another way of victimizing future generations so that we can have a plush, unnatural lifestyle today.

It's time to shut down our state's nuclear plants.

4 Airport

Our counties, cities and state have taken a terrible beating from the recession and resulting fall of revenue. I have thought carefully about our decisions concerning Briscoe Field. If there was any way we could maintain the status quo, I would be all for it. But this county needs a drastic infusion to turn things around economically to maintain a decent way of living for us and for our children and grandchildren.

Without this airport move, our county will be stuck in the same situation forever.

Our home values are already way down, and will continue to decline if nothing drastic is done. What is going to happen when there are no jobs for the next generation? The older gen-

eration does not have to worry about that.

I would like to ask the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners to think long and hard on their decision. We may never get another chance like this again to help out this county.