**Writing Assignment #1b**

**The Ethics of Hydraulic Fracturing of the Marcellus Shale**

Due Tuesday, March 7, 2017

MAKE SURE TO USE GRADING RUBRIC AS A GUIDE

Proponents of hydraulic fracturing (also referred to as fracking) of the Marcellus Shale claim that their actions are ethically justifiable since the benefits to society from using domestically-produced, clean-burning natural gas outweigh the relatively small potential risks to environmental and human health costs. Opponents disagree and argue that hydraulic fracturing is unethical as the practices damage water quality, air quality, and environmental health. Your environmental philosophy professor says that both views are correct depending upon what philosophical tradition one draws their conclusion. Is your professor correct?

To answer this question, write a compelling essay that describes 1) the processes of hydraulic fracturing, 2) the societal benefits from exploiting this natural resource, and 3) the environmental and human health concerns that have been arisen due to this activity. Your description should use the **definition of sustainable development** and account for both the impacts of drilling and the likely consequences of *not drilling* for natural gas in the Marcellus Shale Formation.Your description should draw from multiple sources of information including the articles you have read for class and information about nonrenewable and renewable energy resources. After thoroughly discussing these issues, **analyze** hydraulic fracturing from humanistic philosophic perspectives as well as a naturalistic philosophic perspective and determine whether the environmental philosopher was correct. Finally, briefly comment on what ethical perspective you think is most compelling as it applies to this situation.

**Format and Style**

Your paper should be double-spaced and a maximumof four (4) pages using a standard Times 12-point font. Citations should be in MLA format and the list of references is not considered as part of the page limit. Good writing (TOPIC sentence, supporting sentences, supporting evidence) and grammar are expected. Since this assignment is not a personal narrative or opinion piece, you *should avoid writing in the first person until the last part* where you are encouraged to express your own opinion on this topic.

Your assignment should be submitted online through Canvas by 2pm on Tuesday, March 7th. Unexcused late work will be reduced by one letter grade for each day that it is turned in late starting at 2pm.Making-up graded work will only be permitted if the student has an “excused absence” as defined by University policies. If you have questions, you are encouraged to communicate with the course TAs and to set-up appointments at the University of Delaware’s Writing Center.

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