

PHIL 110B Milestone Essay

Introduction to Ethics & Values

Department of Philosophy

University of Waterloo

Value: 20% of final grade

Due: Monday, June 29 by end of class. A late penalty will apply to all assessments handed in later than this time. See LEARN for more details.

Format: Write a philosophical essay that demonstrates your knowledge of the course concepts and your ability to apply these concepts. You must state a thesis and defend this thesis. Essays will be marked for clarity of writing, rigor of argument, and philosophical acuity. A detailed rubric will be provided in Learn.

Instructions: Your essay should be no longer than 2000 words. Include a word count. Marks will be deducted for exceeding the word count or for failing to include a word count. Please use any regular 12 point font and double-space your writing. Please reference external sources using the referencing style outlined in Learn. Your essay should be edited for spelling, grammar, and organization. Marks will be deducted for poor editing.

A paper copy of your essay must be submitted by the end of class on June 29th. A late penalty will apply to all assessments handed in later than this time.

Please review policies related to Academic Integrity in the course syllabus, the course site in Learn, or the University of Waterloo website. Ignorance of these policies is not a defense.

Option 1

Question: Is it in our self-interest to be good? Explain.

Sub Questions:

1. Would everyone be better off if each of us just pursued our own self-interest?
2. If there are limits to what self-interest can do, what other reasons are there to be good?

You've already been exposed to a question along the same lines. For the fourth written reflection I asked you, "Are there reasons to be good? What are these reasons? Defend." This essay gives you the opportunity to explore the question further.

In preparation, read:

1. **Chapter 8** of the text: *Ethical Egoism*.
2. **Ring of Gyges**. Click on the link and scroll down to the relevant bit of text. <http://philosophy.lander.edu/intro/articles/gyges-a.pdf>
3. **Collective Action Problem**. Click on this link and then search the phrase "Collective action problem". There is a section with that as a title. Read the section. <http://homes.chass.utoronto.ca/~jheath/ideology.pdf>

Option 2

Choose a topic from the textbook and write on that. Clear the topic with me before you begin.