

APPLIED ETHICS: THE RESEARCH ESSAY

FINALIZED DEADLINES, AS DECIDED BY CLASS: VOTE ON 12/30:

PENULTIMATE DRAFT (Completed, pending revisions): Due via email 12/9 by 11:59pm

FINAL SUBMISSION (Ready to be graded): Due via email 12/14 by 11:59pm

BASIC DETAILS:

Length: Approx. 7-8 pages or 2000 words

Formatting: Times New Roman, 12 pt font, 1 inch margins, Works Cited page

Purpose: Philosophy, at its best, is a social practice: Philosophical ideas can serve as effective tools to support, challenge, or complicate our everyday discourse on real world issues central to our shared lived experiences. In order to consolidate our argumentative skill set, we will now turn to incorporate the strategies we have learned throughout the semester into a single sustained project, balancing the effective use of both conceptual reasoning and empirical evidence.

In this assignment, you will produce a research essay that will provide the “copy” text for your digital website (details for the digital project will be discussed in a separate handout).

Task and Details: Imagine you are a freelance writer, commissioned to write an essay for a general audience that uncovers, analyzes, and engages the philosophical salience of a key contemporary issue of your choice. You will:

- (i) Frame a philosophically grounded debate or problem as it relates to a real world issue of your choice: *Summarize* the real life issue at hand and *analyze* how it relates to a broader philosophical question.
- (ii) Craft a well-reasoned argument for an original *claim* within this debate—whether supporting a position, objecting to a position, amending a position, complicating the debate, or proposing a “third way.”
- (iii) Support your claim using at least **2-3 exhibit sources and one interview/peer-to-peer conversation** as *evidence* to support (or challenge) your original argumentative contribution.
- (iv) *Acknowledge* and *respond to* a diverging perspective and/or compelling objection against the line of reasoning or interpretation of evidence used to support your argument.