

**Philosophy 2330: Science and Society
Fall 2021, Long Paper Assignment #2**

Purpose: One central purpose of our class as a whole is to think about the nature of science. This question includes thinking about the role that scientific inquiry plays in contemporary society and how this interacts with public funding and direction of research.

The standard unit of philosophical analysis is the argumentative essay. Writing is an extension of thinking. It allows you (and forces you!) to think more deeply about a topic than you are able to do by keeping things 'in your head.' Exposition of someone else's views (including careful description of those ideas, issues, terms and scope) allows you to understand them better, and it is then much easier to critically evaluate these views. Laying out your own argument or that of someone else often forces you to be explicit about connections which can reveal weaknesses in your own thinking which must be acknowledged so they can then either be fixed or can lead to better views overall. Thus the purpose of assigning an essay is both as an effective way to evaluate your learning and progress in the class and to help improve your philosophical skills.

Instructions: You are to write an argumentative paper on some topic relevant to the question of the role of scientific inquiry in society or the funding or direction of research. This means that anything relevant to Kitcher's *Science, Truth, and Democracy* is automatically acceptable. It is best if you can come up with a topic and thesis yourself, but if you are having trouble, I would be happy to help you develop something.

Due Date: Your essay should be uploaded into Blackboard before 11:59pm on Tuesday, December 7th. Your paper should be anonymous with no identifying features.

Grading: This paper will be worth 20 points (20% of your final grade).

Guidelines: An argumentative essay is a reasoned defense of some particular claim. A general guideline for a paper like this is that you should spend about half of your time in exposition and half your time in evaluation.

Here are some useful guides to writing philosophy papers:

https://philosophy.fas.harvard.edu/files/phildept/files/brief_guide_to_writing_philosophy_paper.pdf (from Harvard College's Writing Center)

<https://www1.cmc.edu/pages/faculty/akind/Intro01s/Writing.htm> (from Amy Kind)

<http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/guidelines/writing.html> (from Jim Pryor)

http://joelvelasco.net/teaching/120/How_to_Write.pdf (from Chris Hitchcock)