

## Signature Assignment for PHI/BA # 4

**Course:** PHI 215 ETHICS  
**Instructor:** Dr. Ron Condon  
**Assignment Title:** Ethics Term Paper ONE

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**Outcome to be assessed:** PHI/BA/4 – Apply appropriate methods of philosophical analysis to issues of contemporary relevance.

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### Assignment Description:

Students will write a 6-7 page paper on one of the contemporary moral problems that we have studied, either the moral issues surrounding the practice of abortion; or the question of the badness of death, and the meaning of life. The instructor will pose detailed questions about the views and arguments presented in the papers on the morality of abortion by the philosophers Mary Ann Warren, Judith Thomson, Don Marquis, and Rosalind Hursthouse; and on the papers about death and the meaning of life by Thomas Nagel and Richard Taylor. Students will choose from among these questions which ones that want to consider in their papers.

This term paper in ethics is conceived of as a critical-analytical style essay. It does not require extensive research beyond the readings studied in the course. What is required is clear, analytical, and critical thinking, about the topic chosen. And this thinking should be expressed in writing which is concise, coherent, and well-organized. Where reference is made to other sources, on-line, or written, these references must be documented appropriately.

This ethics term paper should be 6-7 pages in length, double-spaced, 12-point font, and formatted to conform to the MLA Style.

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**Evaluation criteria:** The paper will be evaluated on the following criteria:

#### Content:

The philosophical, views, theories, arguments, and methods discussed must be articulated clearly, logically, and in a well organized manner. The student must demonstrate a good understanding of the philosophical material being discussed.

#### Evaluation:

The student must show evidence of thoughtful, critical, and analytical evaluation of the philosophical content of the material discussed.

This includes presenting carefully thought through logical criticisms of the philosophical positions and arguments considered in the paper.

**Logical Argument:**

The student must demonstrate the ability to construct logically sound arguments in the paper. These arguments might be in support of philosophical positions discussed, or they might be objections to the views and arguments under consideration.

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**Formatting:**

This ethics term paper should be 6-7 pages in length, double-spaced, 12-point font, and formatted to conform to the MLA Style.