MNSES 9100: Essay Writing

deborah.oughton@umb.no

Essay Writing

6-9 pages; line spacing 1.5; cpi 12 English or Scandinavian Proper referencing and citations

- Websites and newspapers are OK (but give the date, title and author where possible)
- If copying actual text, use quotation marks to make it clear the text has been copied:
 - Feyerebend claims that: "The progress of science, of good science, depends on novel ideas and on intellectual freedom" (Feyerabend, 1974).
 - NOT Feyerabend claims that the progress of science, of good science, depends on novel ideas and on intellectual freedom (Feyerabend, 1974).
- Use of diagrams and figures is permitted

Essay topics

- Philosophical/Methodological What is science? How does your research field fit with theories of science/technology? Critical analysis of methods used in your research.
 - Can have starting points in a branch of science or technology; a specific experiment, hypothesis, or methodology; or scientific developments in a field, ...
- Ethical/Social/Political how science impacts on society (and vice versa)
 - Ethics, many possible approaches: compare two cases and highlight differences; evaluate case(s) against ethical theories; evaluate case(s) against ethical guidelines, ...

General Tips

- Use of a case is recommended (particularly from own research area or project)
- Having a specific point of view, hypothesis or claim to argue for/against makes life simpler
- Having some notion of why the issue is relevant can make the essay more interesting
- The use of "I" is fine. Try to use active rather than passive tense: "Singer claims that..." rather than "It was claimed..."
- Try to find the best arguments against your claims!

Tips cont.

- Break up the essay with sub-headings. This will help you to structure your arguments.
- Pure background material of "factual" or technological description of your case should not exceed 2 pages.
- Make your opinion clear even if you are unsure. If you think that there is a real ethical dilemma as to whether a particular technology should be permitted, it is OK to say so. But you could also consider under what conditions you would consider the technology acceptable/not acceptable.

Four Examples of Approaches

- A. Defend or oppose a position or point of view (e.g., X represents a satisfactory definition of science; X is/is not a good example of a paradigm shift; Y is/is not acceptable; Z hinders the progress of science)
- B. Compare two cases and examine the philosophical, ethical, and/or social differences.
- C. Evaluate the philosophical, ethical, and/or social issues associated with a particular case or application of science or technology.

Four Examples of Approaches

 D: Use science fiction to illustrate some of the ethical dilemmas with a particular technological application (e.g. the "Futures" section in Nature)

ENTERES

NATIONAL INCIDENT Secretary 2004.

Rejuvenation

The chase is on.

"Six case propose tell you about the likelitests horses?"

Microbiophic basked proportionally of this small A level physics disease some diseases efectively meaning backs seet.

"Conferring is aboved." he checkled. "Catherine. Belowicz, come out Tell mawhat pour bink. before these needy bugs but me told."

Looking wither and grinning, Erbecon sudged Gatheritor, usging ber in speak first.

"FOSE Catterior legacileraturals, writer hope broked are austroath." Discovered by the physicist, Than Thefrican, it was found that when here trape of a specific discovered fraction on the reducitor observed appropriate are counter minimal at a specific rate about the same units. If a specific rate about the same units, if a specific discover specific a vertex of relation grantularis.

have only horse district to expension, such as backeria. The problem is that the sourcest of information we can produce and postily of this show how the order of ending across. To make approximate reage integraencepts to produce a man-stand final manwrings will need a moch amone officient, we have a produce aphenous." In the inheal woman's.

"Exorient" said Mr Muspley bowing digitals in Pauli-direction.

Then mother student, Ben gut his hand up. He was relatively new, having joined the class or the beginning, of the current adjust term. Quietly assertion and intelligent, the control has a series beyond



For coding of line and recommission.

Remaind therein of the intelested that are to allow a Serving the two of them alone. He history districts about their set on the fixed bonch, being liers.

"So, well-done then, or stall I call you by your real name, has benchman, the bounty bruster? The rejament are process sight you," No bringly surrend.

Benchas did tack more from the east. Two dea't associated year, blackly, we just want the device. What are you planning to do! hobics this world's population reachands of baltion and let them; share to death as consistent.

"What shall he weakqueen? Never?" Marphy weened source to this. "This would has broked on well. Knoopinders as ease of them, more letting me took Controlling mostly. I had placed to settle here may no old ago proceeding. Some project may no old ago proceeding. News, project

Pitfalls

- Subject too broad
- Purely descriptive, no analysis or critical assessment
- No relevance to science or technology or mathematics or research ...
- Poor reference and citation

Essay Seminar and Deadlines

Seminar (23th Nov – 8th Dec)

Attend **one** half-day seminar

Presentation of outlines/drafts in groups

Give feedback on other students ideas

Receive feedback and literature suggestions from group leader

Submission of outline: the latest one day before seminar group – even if you cannot attend the seminar you need to submit an outline to your group leader

Submission of essay: 20th December Email submission; word or pdf file to your Group Leader

Grades

- Pass/Fail
- Drafts can be submitted before the 20th December (agree on deadline with group leader)
- Students needing to make revisions/re-write will be advised at the latest four weeks after submission and given 2 weeks to rewrite.
- Grades officially available end January

Outlines (Minimum)

- General title
- Question you want to examine or the claim you want to defend
- Background or introduction to the case or example
- Three sub-titles
- 10 minutes per person
- Overhead projector, power point will be available.

Example Titles – previous years

- Image editing or image manipulation A thin line
- Alfred Wegener and the Origin of Continents and Oceans aspects of a scientific revolution?
- The origin of life outside the realms of science
- Computer crime the case of Norway
- Parapsychology in relation to science
- Patents with R-groups and other variables in organic chemistry
- The role of thought experiments in development of scientific theory
- Do scientists have a duty to popularise their research?
- Should fish come under the regulations for animal experiments?
- Aloa vera research: biopiracy or co-benefits?
- The financial crisis and mathematics
- Is the killing and collection of insects for scientific purpose morally defendable?
- Is evolutionary psychology a threat to achieving gender equality in society?
- Object Oriented Design and Development Paradigm shift in Software Science