

Topics for Second Paper

The syllabus describes the second paper as follows:

Paper 2 (1250 words (5 pages)): You have a choice of writing on topics distributed in class or on a topic you pose (original paper topics must be approved in advance). (Due **Monday, April 24, 11:59pm.**)

Recall also that you have a choice in your third paper (Due last day of class, *Wednesday May 17, 11:59pm.*). EITHER

Option A: Expansion of paper 2. Based on feedback on paper 2, you will develop your argument in paper 3 (2500 words (10 pages)).

Option B: New paper. You will write on a topic that you pose (topics must be approved in advance).

So your decision about your second paper topic may bear on your third paper as well.

Guidelines for a paper on a topic you compose

1. If you want to compose your own topic, it must be submitted to Abby by **Friday, April 14 (11:59pm)** and approved by her. Your topic must touch on issues and readings we have been discussing in class, but may extend beyond the precise topics we've covered. Any issue on the syllabus – other than those you covered in your first paper – may be developed into a topic.

On the back of this page you will find a form that you must follow in order to propose a topic for your second (or third) paper.

Additional topics

2. Both Singer and Korsgaard give us reason to think that in important ways, non-human animals must count, morally, just as humans do. State either Singer's or Korsgaard's argument for the particular version of the claim that they endorse, and then consider: If a non-human animal lives a perfectly happy life, and then is killed instantly and painlessly for food, has that animal been wronged? What will the author you have chosen say, and why? Do you agree? Why or why not? Would you say the same about a human? Why or why not?

3. In their discussion of "Consumer Ethics," the editors of *FES* (pp. 165-188) consider what they call the "Simple Principle,"

...if something is produced in a way that is wrong, then it is always wrong to be a consumer of it."
(pp. 165-66)

The editors argue that this principle is not compelling, but a revised version of it might be. Critically evaluate the principle, drawing on the material in the "Consumer Ethics" essay and other essays in section 4 of *FES*. On your view, what is the best approach to consuming (or not) things that are produced in ways that are wrong?

4. Industrial animal agriculture seems to pose a number of ethical problems. At least as it currently exists, it causes substantial suffering to non-human animals; it reduces quality of life for those engaged in it and/or those who live near it; it brings with it health risks to humans (e.g., resistance to antibiotics), and it causes substantial pollution and environmental degradation. (See *FES*, "Industrial Animal Agriculture," (pp. 322-341) and essays in section 7 and 8 of the text.) Do you think that any of these problems (or others you identify) are sufficient to conclude that societies should not engage in industrial animal agriculture? What alternative(s) do you think are reasonable and morally justified, (considering not only the effects on non-human animals)?

Your Name: _____

Topic question – note that the topic must be in the form of a question (or sequence of questions). Be sure that your topic is well-enough defined that you can plausibly address the issue in a short paper. It is fine to make reference to particular articles or arguments we have discussed and consider or compare their strengths and weaknesses.

Thesis you hope to defend in response to the question.

What is the main **opposing** position, i.e., the view you disagree with, that you will need to address in developing your argument?

List 2-3 **sources** you will draw on in developing your argument (at least one should be a required or recommended reading – please mark those with a ‘*’).

OPTIONAL: Sketch the outline of your argument in defense of your thesis.

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24.03 Good Food: The Ethics and Politics of Food Choices
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