Paper #3 Prompt: Human Nature

Draft Checklist

_____ Bring typed thesis and outline to conference (Oct. 7th or 9th)
_____ Bring typed 500-750 word draft to class (Oct. 14)
_____ Final draft due with rough draft and peer review sheets (Oct. 21)

Formal Requirements

- 750-1,000 words. The essay must be at least 750 words minimum.
- Typed, double-spaced with no extra spaces between paragraphs, 12 point font, 1 inch margins, and stapled together with completed peer review sheets.
- You may use the first person (I) when writing about a personal experience.
- You may not use the second person (you) in the paper.
- Your essay must have an introduction with a clear thesis, 2-4 body paragraphs that include concrete illustrations supporting your thesis and a conclusion.
- Your concrete illustrations should include personal experiences and specific examples from our readings or class discussions.

Prompt

Choose one topic from the three listed below.

Option #1: Consider how the guards and prisoners treated each other during the Stanford Prison Experiment even though both groups were made up of college students. How do social roles affect how people act toward each other? You may choose to give examples from the video about the experiment, texts read for class, or personal experience. Though the paper does not have to include the Stanford Prison Experiment, the examples should be concrete and directly relate to your thesis.

Option #2: “The Speech of Aristophanes” presents a myth that explains people’s need for each other. Plato states that “love is born into every human being; it calls back the halves of our original nature together; it tries to make one out of two and heal the wound of human nature.” In your thesis, state whether you agree or disagree with this statement and explain your reasons for doing so. You may use examples from either the class texts or personal experience to illustrate your points.

Option #3: In her excerpt from The Individual and the Pattern of Culture, Ruth Benedict claims that “the vast proportion of all individuals who are born into a society always...assume the behavior dictated by that society.” Identify some ways society has influenced how you act and discuss how those behaviors have been dictated by society in some fashion. You may choose between one and three of these behaviors for this paper, but definitely no more than three.