ENG 1310
Fall 2014—Hayes

Essay #3: Life & Law

Final Paper Due on TRACS: 11:59 pm Thursday, October 9th. Submit via the “Assignments” tab.
Rough Draft Due on TRACS and in class: Wednesday, October 8th. Submit a soft copy via the
“Assignments” tab by 3 pm (4:30 pm for 5:00 class) and bring a hard copy to class (double-sided printing
in fine).
Proposal and Outline Due on TRACS and in class: Monday, October 6th. Submit a soft copy via the
“Assignments” tab by 3 pm (4:30 pm for 5:00 class) and bring a hard copy ON INDEX CARDS to class.
Tentative Thesis Due on TRACS and in class: Wednesday, October 1st. Submit a soft copy via the
“Assignments” tab by 3 pm (4:30 pm for 5:00 class) and bring a hard copy ON AN INDEX CARD to class.

Prompts (choose one):

1.) Menelius argues that human beings basically tend to “do the right thing”. Hsun-Tzu, on the other
hand, counters this with the idea that humans tend to be corrupt and evil. To complicate matters even
more; John Locke argues that humans are inherently blank slates who reflect what they have been
taught. What do you think? Do human beings essentially tend to be good, evil, or neutral? What,
if anything, can or should be done, then? (Consider audience and make specific suggestions.)

2.) Sometimes it can seem that people are encouraged to be evil. For example, Jim Crow
segregation not only oppressed thousands of Blacks, but allowed and even encouraged thousands of
Whites to humiliate, attack, and kill their fellow human beings. What is a “popular evil” or “unjust
law” in your community? What makes this particular rule or practice “evil”? Why and how is it
enforced, and what should be done about this?

3.) Similarly, it can seem that society makes it hard—or even impossible—to do the “right” thing. For
example, Martin Luther King, Jr. was beaten, incarcerated, and eventually killed for trying to change
the accepted, yet unjust, rule of segregation. What is an “unpopular virtue” or “denied right” in
your community? What makes this particular practice “good” or beneficial? Why and how is it
prohibited, and what should be done about this?

For grading ease, your paper must be typed and double-spaced in 12-pt Times New Roman font, with
1-inch margins, an MLA heading, an appropriate title, and a running header with page numbers. You
do NOT need a title page for this assignment.

Please make sure your paper:

• fully makes your case in 1,000-1,200 words (about 4-5 typed, double-spaced pages),
• clearly answers the prompt with an arguable thesis,
• supports your thesis with at least 3 clearly-developed PIE and/or CRIE paragraphs,
• considers the topic in its full complexity and addresses counterarguments thoughtfully,
• makes use of appropriate organizational strategies, transitions, grammar, and other conventions
  of written English.

Other tips for success:

✓ Use personal examples or anecdotes sparingly and ONLY to prove your point(s).
✓ Narrow your topic to points that you can prove without doing extensive research. For Prompts
  2 and 3, focus on communities with which you are intimately familiar—i.e., your city/town,
  neighborhood, family, school, church, sports team, fraternity, etc.—rather than the whole
  planet, nation, or state.
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✓ Develop your argument for a **specific audience** (see proposal sheet). Think about who could benefit most from your message, then make **specific, realistic suggestions for action**. Make sure your reader knows exactly what to do and why.
✓ As always, this assignment does NOT require any direct quotes from or references to your readings. You do NOT have to do any outside research. However, if you CHOOSE to use research or ideas from the assigned readings to support your points, please make sure to give each author credit by including his or her name in the sentence where you quote or paraphrase his or her ideas (for example, “Mencius says that...” or “According to Hsun-Tzu...”).
✓ Maintain a writing tone acceptable for an academic setting: AVOID slang and colloquialisms when possible, and AVOID the second-person (“you”) unless addressing a specific person or group.

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**Proposal Instructions!**

On Monday, October 6th, please bring in AT LEAST 5 INDEX CARDS containing EACH of the following elements of your proposal. Please focus only on POINTS or topic sentences, NOT illustrations or explanations yet.

Please download, complete, and submit the SOFT COPY of your proposal for Essay #3 on TRACS under the “Assignments” tab by 3 pm that day (4:30 pm for 5:00 class).

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<th>Card 1, Side 1:</th>
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<td>Copy down the prompt you have chosen to answer.</td>
<td>Thesis</td>
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<td>Point/Topic Sentence #4 (from thesis). Make sure to use a complete sentence! This point may use the Counter-Response format.</td>
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