

Phil 2, Third Paper Assignment

Maximum Length: No more than three pages, double spaced, 12-point font, one-inch margins

Due: Wednesday, April 21, by 3:10pm (before the lecture starts). Please hand in your paper, in person, to your GSI. *Please see the syllabus for other relevant policies.*

Request: We may circulate to the rest of the class a few papers, *with the authors' names removed*. These will be used as examples, both of things done especially well and of common mistakes. We would be grateful if you would allow us to do this. Everyone will benefit from it, most of all the students whose papers are used as examples. However, if you do *not* feel comfortable with this, then *please say so at the top of your paper*.

Assignment:

Write on either **Topic A** or **Topic B**, but not both.

Topic A:

“What’s morally right for someone to do is whatever he or she believes is right.”

“It is never morally right to prevent someone else from doing what he or she believes is right.”

Why might someone *think* that these claims are incompatible? Are these claims *really* incompatible? If not, why not? If so, which claim should we give up and why?

Topic B:

“Every citizen of a country has an obligation to support its government and obey its laws, at least so long as it does what a government is supposed to do.”

“Some citizens of a country have never explicitly promised to support its government and obey its laws.”

Why might someone *think* that these claims are incompatible? Are these claims *really* incompatible? If not, why not? If so, which claim should we give up and why?