

## **How to Write Midterm Papers (Addendum)**

If you were to write mid-term papers for courses on either Ethics or moral choices or another, you would need a cover page. What is a cover page? A cover page is simply about the topics which are chosen and are based on your personal life event. The latter or your personal life event does not appear on your cover page.

What is an event? Event means incident or occurrence, that which has taken place at a particular time ie. (You recently found out that your boyfriend has been going out with another girl behind your back. He has also been lying about it every time you asked him for transparency. In other words, he has been cheating on you). As you can see, you have enough material to create your own cover page.

Now it is your job to look for a thinker who is well known for his moral philosophy and ethical standard on the subject of lying. After doing some research, you find out that Immanuel Kant (1724-1804), the German thinker of 18th century, is the philosopher that relates best to your topic. This is your general topic. However, having general topic is not enough.

You need to narrow it down to one aspect of Kant's philosophy, which is your specific topic and its place is under your general topic on your cover page. Your specific topic is simply 'lying'. This is what we call one aspect of his philosophy.

At the bottom right hand corner of your cover page is where you type your name, school name, course name, class time, date, etc. Please remember not to number your cover page. The page following the cover page is considered your first page, number it page "1", not page "2".

All the pages following the cover page do not need to have your name, school name, course name, class time, date, etc. You need only to provide proper titles for each page: "Page 1, Research page", "Page 2, Personal life event", "Page 3, Conclusion", and finally "Page 4, Citations". Also avoid numbering your pages like, 1 of 4 or 2 of 4. Just

simply number, 1, 2, 3 and make sure these numbers are on top right corner of your pages.

Use your main textbook along with other required texts to research your specific topic. The first page of your work, your "Research Page", should include the researched information for your topic. If you utilize class notes, there is no need to date the lecture. You are not required to utilize any other sources beyond your textbook unless you feel that it would be beneficial. The only page that needs to be cited throughout is the first page (research page), so no other pages should have any references or citations.

**NO INTERNET SOURCES**, so please don't use the Internet as one of your sources. Concentrate only on your main textbook for your research. Do not utilize other sources instead of your main textbook, they should only be used in addition. Once you found the relevant passage for your specific topic, paraphrase it, use your own words to restate the information you have gathered (as they are not your original thoughts, remember to cite the source used). The correct way to cite your source in-text is to put "(Dehghani, 2016, p. 2)" after your paraphrased words. There are no footnotes or endnotes.

**REMEMBER:** your main textbook takes priority over other sources, so do not bypass your textbook and do not worry if you do not have class notes to references.

All pages need to be formatted the same. This means your paper needs to have 1 inch margins, typed in Times New Roman size 12 font and be double spaced. \*\*\*Please ensure your pages are uniform, do not have one page that is double spaced and another with single space.

Remember, this is not about how much you write but what you write. Bear in mind that you have to identify your pages: "Page 1, Research page", "Page 2, Personal life event", "Page 3, Conclusion", and finally "Page 4, Citations". Each and every one of these three pages is supposed to be a full page.

Also take note that in case you went over couple of sentences, number that page and move on to the next section and identify or title it. Let us say, you wrote a few sentences more and spilled over the next page. If you were working on page 1, then the next page will

automatically be page number 2. Having done that, you leave the page number 2 and move on to the next section, which is 'personal life event', and then you number it as page 3. Even if you would like to write more, limit yourself to one full page per section. Remember again, this is not about how much you write but what you write.

You should never type on the back of your pages. Wide margins are not acceptable (1 inch margins ONLY). Since you are limited to 1 page, do not put space between your paragraphs to allow yourself more room to include your thoughts and ideas.

With your research page (first page), remember not to paraphrase do not use direct quotes.

Page # 1 - You want to tell the reader about Kant's position on 'lying'.

Page # 2 - is about your own personal life event. This is simply about things that have happened to you, your relatives, or friends which involve moral or ethical decisions. For example, you started a business with your bestfriend. You were surprised when one of the checks you wrote bounced, your friend said they knew nothing about it and explained it must have been a bank error. When you checked the details of your shared accounts you realized that your business partner had been lying and stealing from your company. This situation is what is considered an event. The moral issue you are dealing with is lying. Your general topic is 'Kant' and your specific topic is 'lying '. Why? Your business partner who happened to also be your friend had been lying. If you feel you do not have a life story or event that you can write about, feel free to come discuss this with me, instead of just creating a fake event. After all, this class stands on the foundation of honesty and integrity.

Don't be tempted to borrow a paper from a friend or steal one off the internet, as it does not only insult your own capability it could harm your college career as plagiarism is not tolerated in the slightest. The threat of expulsion should not be the only thing that keeps you from using another's work though. You should ask yourself if that action

would be the right thing to do, after all this course does cover topics such as morality, lying and cheating.

Page #3 - Once you're finished with page 1 and 2, then you proceed with your page # 3, which is your conclusion. Please remember, this is not a continuation of your personal life event. In this page, you would like your reader to know implicitly how your event is related to your topic. You don't need to mention this explicitly. On this page you should discuss your moral problems in the light of Kant's moral philosophy on lying. Feel free to agree or disagree with Kant's ideas. But you can't just say I like this or I don't like that. You ought to rationally show what you think of Kant's suggestion concerning the problem of lying in terms of what has happened to you and your family.

Page # 4 - is about the sources you have used to write your paper. It is called 'Citations' page. For instance, if you used R.S. Landau's book as a text for your course on ethics, then in your citation page you will have: Landau, The fundamentals of ethics, 2015. No page numbers are to put here. Your page numbers only appear in your research page which is your page #1. Your class notes are not to cited on this page.

Also please make sure to only print in black text and ensure that the ink is sufficient (it should not be faded and hard to read).

PLAGIARISM is an expellable offense – DO NOT be tempted to borrow a paper from another. Not only will I remember a paper that has been submitted to me, I have the ability to check your paper against any priors in this class or any others.

DO NOT EMAIL – This means no emailing me papers or any other material.

What if you're writing a mid-term paper for a course on Religion or Religions? In this case, you choose one Religion as your general topic. As far as your specific topic, you pick one aspect of that Religion

at hand. For example, if you have decided to have 'Hinduism' as your general topic, then 'reincarnation' could be your specific topic depending on your personal life event. Let us say, the beautiful puppy who showed up at your door after your grandma's death went up to her room at your house and began sniffing at what she loved. You suspect that perhaps your grandma was reincarnated as this adorable puppy so that she can be with you and your family.

What if you're writing a paper for a course on philosophy? In a case like this, you follow the instructions as what we have for a course on ethics. In other words, you ought to select a philosopher first as your general topic and then zero in on an aspect of his or her philosophy as your specific topic.

If you happened to have a text on, let us say, moral choices, then you have many cases to choose from for your paper. These cases are like abortion, affirmative action, euthanasia. Given this situation, you need to go to the end of the chapter you have decided to work on and consider one of the authors as your philosopher for general topic, pro or con. On your cover page, therefore, you'll have the name of that thinker as general topic and the name of the case you have picked up to work on. You also want to mention whether the philosopher you chose, is for or against that case. Your cover page should never look like: Aristotle(general), affirmative action(specific) or Plato, my miserable life. This page is not about you. Your cover page and research page belong to your philosopher.

Please remember that your true personal life events shall be kept confidential. Don't hold back. I shall not judge you based on your papers. In ancient times teachers prided themselves in knowing and getting to know their students. So, this is just a humble way of following those great teachers (ie. Socrates). Let your studies matter in your personal life. Your papers will be returned only to you and no one else, once they are corrected. To be fair to other students, late papers might lose points. Don't e-mail me your work to prove that you have finished

your paper but you have not been able to print it. This may be good for your file. However, as long as your paper is not in my hands, you're not done yet. Thus, don't procrastinate so you can print your papers in time.

I repeat, stay away from the Internet when it comes to references. Don't e-mail me your papers or any other homework. I do not ask you to do anything that I do not practice myself (ie. checking my cellphone during class, paying attention to my laptop and not the class, or emailing work). Please pay attention, only page # 1 contains references. The other pages will not have references at all. If you have purchased your textbook online, you have to mention this on citation page (page # 4). Font is Times New Roman, size 12. The paper should only have a 1 inch margin all the way around and be doubled spaced.

Connect your true life events to your topic. Let this paper be a reflection of you and not just another academic paper. This is a simple three-paper. I have tried to be as detailed as possible in the rules, if you have questions please feel free to call me or talk to me before or after class.

Good Luck!