



# Analytical Papers & General Education

PHIL 102

Ethics, Politics, & Law

## Outcomes



- Learning outcomes
- Gen Ed outcomes
- “Thinking clearly, critically, and effectively”
- Identifies and explains issues, recognizes contexts and assumptions, acknowledges multiple perspectives, [supports conclusions with (good) evidence]
- Critical Thinking

## Rubric for Critical Thinking Assessment



- Rubrics
- Three assessment “grades”
  - Proficient
  - Adequate
  - Developing

## “Proficient” Critical Thinking



- Identifies and explains issues
- Recognizes contexts and assumptions
- Acknowledges multiple perspectives
- Evaluates evidence to reach conclusions
- [Supports conclusions with (good) evidence]

## Analytical Paper Assignment



We have seen that “the right to privacy” plays a huge role in the Supreme Court’s thinking about contraception, abortion, right to die, gay rights, and potentially gay marriage. The starting point for all of this is *Griswold v. Connecticut*. Write a short paper analyzing the Court’s disagreement about whether there was a constitutional right to privacy in the Bill of Rights and/or the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment, and if so, where this right was to be found in the Constitution.

## Analytical Paper Assignment



- 1000 to 1800 words
- Double-spaced
- On the “above” topics
- **Required** organizational structure
  - Short introductory section
  - Analysis of **one** of the “pro-privacy” opinions [Douglas, Goldberg, or Harlan, but not White]
  - Analysis of **one** of the dissenting opinions [Black or Stewart]
  - Your **defense** of why there is, or is not, a constitutional right to privacy

## Alternate Analytical Paper Assignment



You may write a 1000 to 1800 word paper critically analyzing W. A. Parent's theory of privacy, and Jeffery Johnson's critique of this theory. The paper must have the following structure.

First section – explaining Parent's theory of privacy, and his arguments in defense of this theory.

Second section – explaining Johnson's arguments against Parent's theory, and his own theory of privacy.

Third section – explain and defend your own views on this disagreement. You may focus narrowly on the particular debate between Parent and Johnson, or you may articulate and defend your own views about the nature and importance of privacy.

## Analytical Paper Assignment



- Excerpts from the opinions in *Giswold v. Connecticut*
- 1<sup>st</sup> draft due electronically Monday Week Seven
- Peer review drafts done in Blackboard groups
- Final draft due Thursday Week Eight
- 30% of course grade

## Academic Papers



- Taking part in an academic discussion
- In-text citation
  - Quotes: “privacy as a broad and multi-faceted cluster concept” (DeCew, p. 61)
  - Paraphrases: she also attempts to balance privacy against other values (DeCew, p. 61)
  - Bibliography: DeCew, Judith Wagner, *In Pursuit of Privacy*. Ithica, Cornell University Press, 1997.

## My Students as Writers



- My disappointment
- My responsibility
- My advice
  - Why you are at a disadvantage
  - Assume the role of the expert
  - Your audience
  - Be a teacher
  - Have a thesis
  - Have an outline
  - Write in sections

## One Way of Writing a Paper



- Find an academic debate
- Find a spokesperson for one side
- Find a spokesperson for other side
- What do you think about this debate?
- Outline
  - Very short introduction
  - Section One: Spokesperson's A's argument
  - Section Two: Spokesperson's B's argument
  - Section Three: Defense of your thesis