

Mini Paper 3

Instructions: this assignment should be **printed out** and turned in **in class** on **September 19**. This paper should be under a page. I like to grade as anonymously as possible, so please **do not put your name on the top of the paper, but instead put it on the opposite side of the page (or on a second page, if you can't print double-sided)**. If you have any questions about how to complete the assignment, please let me know.

In the excerpts I have given you on Aristotle, and in others that you have not read, Aristotle emphasizes the importance of developing a good character in allowing you to judge what you morally ought to do. He also says that if you do not know what you ought to do, it is a good idea to imitate those that are virtuous and wise.

This view is rather different from the Utilitarians and Kantians that we have read – neither of these groups seems to emphasize the importance of the development of good character or of taking on the views of the virtuous and the wise.

Who do you think has it right? That is, is Aristotle right, or are the Utilitarians and Kantians right? Or are both groups right? Or is nobody right? And why do you think that?

Some suggestions about writing this mini-paper (these hold for philosophy papers in general):

- When writing these papers, it is always better to examine one set of issues in great detail, considering objections and replies, then to examine a number of issues in not very much detail at all.
- I asked you what you think, but because this is a philosophy paper I want you to try to defend your view by appealing to reasons. That is, your goal is not merely to tell me why you think what you do, but also to convince me that you're right.