

Short Writing Assignment 7: Offering objections

Instructions: you should print this assignment out and bring it to class on Friday March 17th. (If you can't bring it to class, you should email it to me; my email address is immerman@ksu.edu. If you email it in, it won't count as turned in unless I send an email confirming I've received it.) This assignment should be one paragraph long. 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 have any questions about how to complete the assignment, please let me know.

I would like you to offer an objection to the following argument.

1. No reasonable criterion for moral status cleanly separates all humans from dogs and cats.
2. If no reasonable criterion for moral status cleanly separates all humans from dogs and cats, then it's only morally acceptable to do something to dogs and cats if it's morally acceptable to do it to some humans.
3. It's not morally acceptable to keep any humans as pets.
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4. It's not morally acceptable to keep dogs and cats as pets.

*(Some suggestions/clarifications: (1) check out the class notes from last Friday on offering objections (2) Just to help clarify premise 1 and explain why someone would hold it, let us consider what someone defending it might say: "One criterion for moral status is being intelligent; the more intelligent you are, the more moral status you have. This is a reasonable criterion. But this criterion doesn't cleanly separate all humans from dogs and cats; there are some intellectually disabled humans that are less smart than some dogs and cats. Another criterion for moral status is being a member of the human species. But this doesn't seem to be a reasonable criterion; what species you are doesn't seem to be any more morally relevant than what race, religion, or gender you are.").*

I will be grading this assignment via the following rubric:

✓+ : you do all three of the following things: (i) you offer an objection, as opposed to a counterexample (ii) you are explicit as to which part of the argument you are objecting to (iii) you apply the tips from previous assignments.

✓: you do two of the following things: (i) you offer an objection, as opposed to a counterexample (ii) you are explicit as to which part of the argument you are objecting to (iii) you apply the tips from previous assignments.

✓- : you do at most one of the following things: (i) you offer an objection, as opposed to a counterexample (ii) you are explicit as to which part of the argument you are objecting to (iii) you apply the tips from previous assignments.