

Mini Paper 2

Instructions: this assignment should be **printed out** and turned in **in class** on **January 28**. 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.

Today for class we are reading Mary Anne Warren's article "On the Moral and Legal Status of Abortion." On pages 79-80, Warren argues that the basic moral rights of an actual person outweigh the rights of a merely potential person, whenever the two conflict. Tell me what you take to be the best objection to her argument. If you have extra space, tell me how she would respond and how you would respond in turn.

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

- When formulating objections, you want to make them as persuasive as possible. If you feel like your objection is super-easy to get around and that it wouldn't really convince anyone, then you should try to think of an objection that's more persuasive. The same thing holds for the responses.
- 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.
- Because this is a philosophy paper I want you to try to defend your view by appealing to reasons. Your goal is not merely to tell me why you think what you do, but also to convince me that you're right.
- It is a good idea to write as concisely as possible; if you can say something in fewer words, do so; if a sentence is unnecessary for accomplishing your goals, cut it out.