

Reproductive Rights and Wrongs
Spring 2016
Third Paper: To Post or Not?

Recently, Premier Egg Donations has been posting flyers around our campus seeking “special egg donors” to help “loving couples conceive a child.” As advertised, the donors must have the following qualifications:

- A healthy life style;
- a minimum GPA of 3.6;
- a total score of at least 1350 on the SAT;
- musical ability, and
- a demonstrated athletic ability.

This has set off quite a debate on campus, and the University is considering whether or not to ban such flyers from campus based on concerns about potential exploitation of the young women at **UMB**. Looking for informed positions on the issue, and knowing that you have read some leading articles regarding the controversies surrounding paying women for their eggs in your Intermediate Seminar, the Administration has asked you to write a short position paper on whether these flyers should be banned or not on campus.

Instructions:

1. This is a persuasive essay, which means that you want to craft an argument that will convince others of your position. Accordingly, you may write it in the first person.
2. However, this does not mean that I am simply asking you to write about how you feel about the issue. I am also not asking you to describe the readings.
3. So what is it that I am asking? Using the two assigned readings that support your position on the issue, I want you to craft a well-supported essay. In short, this is a text based paper – you are using what the experts have to say on the issue to persuade the administration that your stance regarding the posting of flyers is the correct one.
4. I really want you to focus on the clarity of the writing and the ideas, so I am keeping the paper short – it should be 2-3 pages. Don’t be fooled, however, this does not make the assignment easier as it puts a premium on careful organization and concise and powerful prose.
5. This paper is due on Blackboard by 5:00 p.m. on 4/11. Note that we will be talking about writing a persuasive essay on 4/6 so you will get the most out of this class if you have already begun to work on this essay.
6. An excellent paper will:

- Include a well-developed introductory paragraph. It should frame your paper as a whole, and include a clear thesis statement, which you then develop in the body of the paper. It will not describe the readings.
- It will have several well-developed arguments in support of your position. Each argument will be clearly identified and fully supported by a careful and appropriate use of the readings.
- The paper will avoid both descriptive writing and your own personal feelings about the issue.
- Your paper must also include a concluding paragraph that pulls the essay together.
- Each body paragraph should contain a single idea that is fully developed and supported. In turn, the paragraphs should be organized in a logical and orderly way so that the paper flows from idea to idea without repetition or abrupt shifts.
- The writing must be clear enough to understand what is meant. This means that you have offered enough detail, explanation and evidence to justify your thesis. The ideas should make sense to anyone, whether or not they have done the same reading.
- You should use quotes to support/highlight key points, but do not over rely on them – they should not “write your paper” for you. Also, you cannot simply plunk quotes down in your paper -- you must integrate them using “signal phrases.”
- Sources will be appropriately identified in the body of the paper using parenthetical references in APA style.