Comp 303/Law
Vocation Essay Guidelines

Directions: As part of our discussion on vocation, you will write a five page documented paper outlining your understanding of the relationship between your faith and your vocation, and applying your faith to an ethical dilemma in your future profession. You must use at least two of the readings in Encounters (or the essays on D2L) on vocation to help you articulate your attitude towards work. For the second part of your paper, you also must include at least three outside sources to develop your position on an ethical dilemma in your profession. Your paper will be properly documented and include a Works Cited page. (Note: Do not worry if you are unsure about your future profession: choose one that is of interest to you.)

The goals of this paper are:
- To help you articulate what you believe is the relationship between your Christian worldview and your profession;
- To apply this understanding by responding to a moral or ethical dilemma you may encounter in that profession.

Structure of the Paper:
The paper has a three part structure.

Part I: The introduction will include a discussion of your general attitude to vocation. How do you believe you are asked as a Christian to view the world of work? In other words, explain the connection between your Christian faith, biblical principles, and your work. You also must include reference to at least two texts we have read on vocation in Encounters or you have been given as handouts: Dorothy Sayers’ “Why Work?”; Tony Woodlief’s “Working for Good,” Richard Wilbur’s “A Plain Song for Comadre,” Timothy Dalrymple’s “Called to a Community,” Henri Nouwen’s “Adam’s Peace,” Chuck Colson’s “The God of Wooden Plows,” and Andree Seu’s “Your Calling.” This section could be two or more paragraphs.

Part II: The body of the paper will begin by stating your chosen profession. It will then outline one particular ethical dilemma in that profession. For example, if you believe you are called to the chaplaincy, you might focus on the pressure of ecumenism, or the temptations ministers face in the area of finances or extramarital relationships. If you are planning on becoming a filmmaker, you might explore the expectation for explicit content, or as a marketing professional, you may be expected to pad the statistics in order to boost your product. If you are planning on teaching or coaching in the public school setting, how do you counsel hurting young people or how do you express your faith in the classroom without explicitly mentioning God? After you lay out the ethical dilemma, use your outside sources to provide information on the nature and scope of the problem. This section will be several paragraphs.

(over)
Part III: The last section of the paper will discuss how you would respond to that dilemma. Apply your Christian worldview to meet that problem. Conclude the paper by summarizing how your Christian attitude towards work and your Christian values will impact your workplace. This may be two or more paragraphs.

MLA Format and Documentation: Use proper parenthetical citations for every quotation, summary, or paraphrase and include a Works Cited page. The selections you use from Encounters must be included in your Works Cited page as well. (These texts do not count as outside sources.) You must include three outside sources for the ethical dilemma portion of the paper. These may be journals, books, a personal interview, but you may use only one website. The Bible may be used in your paper, but it will not count as one of your required sources. Also please do not use any Wikipedia, Brainy Quote etc. sources. You must also include copies of your sources—just that page from which you have quoted, paraphrased or summarized. They will be properly labeled as will be discussed in class.

PLEASE NOTE: I WILL NOT READ PAST PAGE SEVEN SO MAKE YOUR WRITING COUNT

Due Dates: Topic (ethical dilemma) is due on Tuesday, March 27th
Final Draft: Thursday, April 5th

Please submit essay to D2L Dropbox

Total Possible Points: 150

To help you get started, brainstorm on these questions:

- How do I define “success” in my vocation?
- What concrete difference does being a Christian make on the job?
- How does being a Christian affect my attitude towards my job?
- How can I glorify God in my workplace?
- What role does the Holy Spirit’s inspiration play in helping me come up with creative ideas in my vocation?
- How does being a Christian affect my work ethic, dependability, responsibility?
- What challenges to my faith and character do I expect to face in this particular vocation?
- How can I stay on track and not be lulled into worldly values and practices in the workplace?