THE VALUE OF WORK
DOCUMENTED ESSAY: WRITING IN THE DISCIPLINES

Due Dates:
WORKING BIBLIOGRAPHY (submitted to D2L): Friday, March 8
OUTLINE/THESIS STATEMENT (submitted to D2L): Friday, March 15
DRAFT FOR PEER REVIEW: Wednesday, March 27
FINAL COPY (submitted to D2L): Monday, April 1

Length: Minimum of 4 to 5 pages typed, double-spaced, plus a Works Cited page, which
DOES NOT count as one of the pages.

The Assignment:
The purpose of this assignment is, using research, to expose an ethical dilemma for a worker in your
chosen profession, and to explain how a worker with a Christian worldview would respond to that
dilemma.

Reading Choices from Encounters:
C. S. Lewis, “The Poison of Subjectivism,” pp. 163-171
Glenn Tinder, “Can We Be Good Without God?” pp. 173-188
Dorothy Sayers, “Why Work?” pp. 191-200
Any of the other selections from the chapter on Vocation in Encounters
You will need to cite at least two of these selections in the essay.

Library Sources:
You must cite at least three sources found on the ORU Library website.
These may be articles from scholarly journals or current ebooks.
(You may substitute printed scholarly articles or books checked out from the ORU Library.)

Other Possible Sources:
You may interview a professor or someone currently employed in the profession.
You may cite the Bible, but that must be in addition to the other five sources.
You may cite one scholarly source not available on the ORU library website, but only if I have
given prior approval of that source.

Copies of Sources:
You must provide a printed or photocopied page from each of your sources. This must be a page
you actually cite in the essay. This is a department requirement, and I will not grade any essay for
which I do not have these printed pages.

Organization of the Essay:
Introduction
Begin with background information on the value of work, the importance of worldview, or
the significance of your profession. This paragraph must end with a thesis statement that
exposes the ethical dilemma explicitly.

Focus on the profession
In one paragraph (not more), focus on the history of and/or a description of your chosen
profession. You may include such things as historical background (when, where, by whom
was it developed?) and names of important figures in the discipline (past and present). You
should also consider more concrete information like education or training needed, other
special skills required, salary ranges, employment opportunities, and so forth. As in all the other paragraphs in this essay, this paragraph must include citations.

The Dilemma
Exposé the ethical issue: what it is, whom it involves, whom it affects, possible outcomes or solutions. Remember to stress why it is important. This portion of the essay will be several paragraphs long.

Christian View of the Dilemma
In one paragraph (not more) discuss how a worker with a Christian worldview would approach the dilemma.

Conclusion
Wrap things up. Do not summarize the essay, but do echo the ideas in the introduction and thesis. A comment about the future of the profession would be appropriate.

Works Cited
You must include a list of references done in the format used in your discipline. You must provide a style sheet for that discipline. Otherwise, use MLA. Provide a printed or photocopied page from each source.

NOTE: If you are still uncertain as to exactly what you want to do following graduation, do the assignment using some aspect of your major field of study or investigate a career that interests you.

REMEMBER: Give your essay an original title, avoid wordiness and major sentence errors, write in THIRD PERSON (Do not use second person ever.), and be sure to consult a handbook for information on using documentation.

This is a documented essay. All borrowed information, whether paraphrased, summarized, or quoted, must be cited in the text to avoid plagiarism.

Sample thesis statements:
In the work of the registered nurse, ethical challenges abound; one such challenge is the appropriate use of physical restraint of combative or wandering patients.
Accountants face the decision to do their work ethically, or to “cook the books,” purposely manipulating data to please their clients.