

Intro to Ethics
Dr. Heather Salazar

How to Improve Your Grade on Your Next Essay:

General Comments:

Based on your last essays, many of you could improve greatly by:

- (1) Starting early on your papers and
- (2) Coming to office hours for advice.

Good students may not always start off making the best grades, but they take responsibility for their work and their improvement. Your investment in this class, your papers and your improvement *will* make a difference.

If you are willing to invest a week, you have a good chance of getting an A, if you are willing to invest only a few hours, you have a very small chance of getting anything better than a C.

Before you get the essay prompt:

1. Read the comments on your first essay carefully to determine some ways you can improve.
2. Reread the essay prompt and determine what you would do differently.
3. Read the sample A+ essay in my office written by your peer.
4. Make note of some ways you could improve your paper.
5. Read the material for the class before lecture.
6. Make sure to attend class and write notes.
7. If you are confused about the lecture or readings, ask me in class or during office hours.
8. If you miss classes, get the notes from another student.

After you get the essay prompt:

1. Read the essay prompt carefully.
2. Start your essay the day you receive the essay prompt.
3. Make sure you understand the essay prompt.
4. Ask me if you need clarification.
5. Outline the essay and write a rough draft.
6. Make sure the essay has a thesis statement and is well-organized.
7. Make sure the points are clear and that they are supported by ample evidence with good reasoning.
8. Make sure you have answered the essay prompt according to the instructions and fully.
9. Trade papers with someone in class and ask how you can improve the paper.
10. Ask me if you have questions or need advice.
11. Go to a writing tutor to ask about your thesis, organization, clarity, and support for your points.