You are required to write a four (4) page essay on one aspect of the topics that we have been working on since the first essay. There are three possible topics printed on the “topics” pages. You are to select one.

Your essay is due Tuesday, November 20, 2007, in class if you wish to receive it back with comments. It may be turned in later, on Tuesday November 27th in class*, and there will be no grade penalty. But papers turned in on the 27th will not be returned as quickly as those turned in on the 20th, and they will not have comments from us.

Your essay must be typed, double-spaced, with all margins of no more than one inch and a font (type size) no bigger than 12 point (the size of the type in this cover sheet). Staple the pages of your essay along with this cover sheet.

In making reference to works we have read or to class discussion, use either footnotes or put the references in parentheses within your essay. If you quote more than two lines of material from the readings in any one place in your essay, place the quotation in a footnote so that it does not occupy too much space in the body of your essay.

Do not take up space re-telling a story or re-stating the facts of a case. You may of course make reference to these things—that’s why you are asked to use the materials as part of your analysis. But in an essay of only five pages you should not use big chunks of valuable space to re-state a story or case with which we are already familiar. Doing so will cost you points.

Remember also that whenever you are giving your own opinion it should be given in relation to the materials that you are analyzing. It should not simply stand alone. For example, do write, “As judge Ruffin’s decision in State v. Mann demonstrates, a judge may feel forced by law to deny justice and use his role to perpetuate atrocities.” Do not write, “I don’t think a judge should have to follow the law when his or her conscience tells them that the law is unjust.”

Please note that although this is a short essay—shorter than the first essay—it takes still more effort to write something shorter that is effective than to write something longer. Accordingly, you should outline, draft, edit, and proofread your essay carefully. You are encouraged to discuss the topics with your classmates—that is part of the learning process—but the essay itself must be entirely your own work. Any act of academic dishonesty will be dealt with mercilessly.

In a course like Legal Studies 250, there is less emphasis on “correct answers” [plenty of this in the multiple choice exam], than on clear reasoning, careful thinking, and appropriate use of references to course materials. And remember, this is a general education course; part of your grade and of our comments will be based on the clarity of your writing.

___________________________    _______________________
(print your name)     (Topic number of your essay)
                      (1, 2, or 3)

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(your student number)