

In class, we described how an evolutionary beneficial trait may misfire in such a way that is exceptionally detrimental to the individual in the wrong circumstances, while the trait itself may still be beneficial to the species as a whole. Specifically, we considered the moth and its tendency to follow an Archimedean spiral around a flame until it immolates itself.

In class, we also described how Jonathan Haidt proposed six *dimensions* representing a moral basis for ethics, and how some may place more weight on one basis than another. Consequently, one individual may have a different ethical response to a situation than another.

In class, we discussed how a company can cause *loyalty* to misfire, whereby an employ may have more than usual loyalty to a company. This may lead to behavior that, while benefitting the company, causes harm to the individual; however, the individual may not immediately recognize the harm. (Unusually long working hours, unacceptable or unsafe working conditions, etc.)

Describe two different situations where one party could manipulate an individual using one or more dimensions of this moral basis to support the manipulation. In some cases, such manipulation may be considered ethical (loyalty to a company can be beneficial in that there is less likelihood of employees leaving, leaking secrets, etc.), but in others, especially when harm or evil (as defined by Francis Kamm) occurs to the individual being manipulated, one may consider the moral basis being used by the individual to be misfiring. You should describe the goals of the manipulating party, which moral basis or bases are being manipulated, and the harm that is being done to the individual as a consequence. You must describe the harm and you need to show why the harm is a consequence of the manipulation. Explain why, despite the harm, some individuals in society may not recognize that they are being so manipulated.

Note: each situation must have a different primary moral basis that is being manipulated. Do not, for example, choose two situations where loyalty is the primary moral basis that is being manipulated.

Next, in each of the two cases, you should consider a utility that the affected person is either explicitly or implicitly considering when they continue to be manipulated by the other party despite the harm. Give an alternate utility which, if considered, would cause the individual to take steps to avoid the manipulation.

Your essay should assume the reader is intelligent but ignorant. Here are some points on writing an essay:

1. The introduction should give the reader an overview of the paper: what is it you are discussing, what is the approach you will take, and what is the structure of the following essay.
2. You will require some background. You should describe the dimensions of a moral basis for ethics in your own words. You should also describe what a utility is.
3. The next section of the essay is your body and you consider each of the two situations in sequence. At the very least, there should be three paragraphs for each: a description of the situation, a discussion of the ethics, and a discussion on the utilities.
4. Your conclusions should summarize your key arguments.

You will be marked based on your arguments, not on the choices you make. Indeed, it would be very easy for two different students to consider different forms of harm arising from the same situation. You need not agree on the evolutionary basis of why such a moral basis exists, and you may, if you wish, make this clear in your essay—especially if it affects your arguments.

Essay requirements:

1. Times New Roman 11 pt font.
2. 1.5 line spacing between lines and double spacing between paragraphs.
3. One inch margins.
4. Four full pages to five full pages.
5. No figures.
6. You may add appendices with figures or additional information.
7. The submission must be either docx or pdf. (It will be easier for the teaching assistant to give feedback in the docx format.)

If you have concerns about the essay topic, please approach the instructor on or before Friday, the 3rd of October. In exceptional circumstances, the instructor will consider variations to the requirements.