Writing Assignment No. 1

Essays are due at the beginning of lecture on **Tuesday, Feb. 6th**. The essay should be a minimum of 5 full pages in length (no more than 7) in the Humanities format* and a counterargument is required. Reminder: Do not use outside sources in a Humanities essay. The argument should be your own and the only material used should be the assigned readings.

Respond to one of the following prompts:

1. Is civil society an improvement on the state of nature? Compare or contrast Locke’s views on this subject with Rousseau’s.

2. In *Candide*, Pangloss believes that we live in the 'best of all possible worlds.' He believes that even when bad things happen, it is for the best. Pangloss’s optimism suggests the limitations of mankind’s ability to make reasoned judgements to improve one’s situation.

   Can reason solve mankind’s social and political problems? Compare or contrast how two of the three authors (Locke, Voltaire, or Rousseau) would respond to this question.

3. Rousseau and Voltaire both criticize the societies that they live in. And on first glance, they seem to be making very different critiques. But some have argued that they are both concerned with the same underlying problems.

   Take a position in this debate. Are the underlying concerns of Voltaire and Rousseau the same? Or are they different?

Submit a paper copy of your essay to your TA in a plain manila folder with your name on it. Include all your previous Humanities papers in the folder. Before submitting a paper copy at lecture, you must submit an electronic copy to [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com) for textual similarity review. Information about that will be distributed and discussed in section by your TA.

Late Essays. One day late is -10% (one letter grade). Two days late, -20% (two letter grades). Papers will not be accepted after two days.

*Handouts are available in the *Humanities Custom Handbook* and online at [http://revelle.ucsd.edu/humanities/writinginfo/index.html](http://revelle.ucsd.edu/humanities/writinginfo/index.html).