

John Doe  
PHI 340  
Professor Armstrong  
17 November 2010

## **Research Paper Outline**

Title: The Truth Behind Morality

Thesis Statement: Many see God, or Deity in general, as an omniscient being who sees all and is perfect. But God did not create morality. He also must adhere to higher principles, whether these principals are called the rules of the universe or something else is not important in this discussion. God provides us with moral standards and guidelines to follow which, if done, will help us in turn follow those higher principals.

Intro to different moral theories:

Psychological and Ethical Egoism-Actions are morally right if they best promote self-interest.

Consequentialism-Actions are morally right if they bring about good results.

Utilitarianism-Always do the optimific thing in the particular circumstance.

Plato-Justice is what is important and when a person is just they are at peace within themselves.

Olli-Pekka Vainio, "Objective Morality after Darwin (and without God)?"-The contrast between moral realism, moral anti-realism, and naturalism.

What philosophers say in favor of the thesis:

Euthyphro Argument-Either God has reasons for His commands or He doesn't. Will be used to show there is something behind God's rules.

Aquinas-Will be used to show difference between natural law and eternal law. Shows a role Deity can take in a moral theory.

Virtue Ethics-Will show how rules and principals may be different, i.e. there are principles behind the rules, and how they both play a role in morality.

Natural Law Theory-Humans are drawn to intrinsically good things. Following these inclinations for good is moral.

G.B. Siniscalchi, "Modified Divine Commands, Atheistic Moral Realism, and Thomistic Natural Law."-More on Natural Law Theory. A theological viewpoint on meta-ethics.

What philosophers say against it and counter arguments:

DCT-Argues God is creator of morality.

Kant-Argues morality is doing things out of duty. Doesn't include God in arguments.

Stephen C. Evans, "Moral Arguments for the Existence of God."-Argue God is creator of morality. Another view of DCT.

These theories will be used to show moral values are not dependent on God. Whether you believe in God or not, morality still exists.

Conclusion: Humans have a natural inclination to do good. This inclination can be suppressed over time but it is still there in all of us. God does not create morality but he does give us moral standards to live by which will help us be moral creatures.