

HP210 ESSAY TOPIC, FALL 2002

Length: 800-1000 words

Due Date: Friday, December 6 (I will be glad to read and make suggestions about drafts prior to this date.)

General Instructions:

The essay should be completed individually by each student. Much of the information upon which you will draw will come from discussions within your team in connection with your project, and, of course, you are free to discuss the essay topic among yourselves. However, each written essay should be your individual work.

Topic:

One assumption of this course is that Clarkson University is a microcosm of society-at-large and, therefore, that the issues associated with energy production and use in the Clarkson context parallel those in society. This means that not only will your experience in this course help you understand society's energy issues, but it also will generate information relevant to addressing these issues.

To what extent is it correct to view Clarkson as a microcosm of society *re* energy issues? In answering this question, look beyond the technical issues and consider the social, political, and ethical aspects.

Grading Criteria:

The Philosophical 3 Cs:

1. **Clarity.** Your essay should leave the reader in no doubt about your meaning. This means, among other things, that your sentences and paragraphs follow standard form and your word choice accurately conveys your intended meaning.
2. **Consistency.** The information and intermediate conclusions in your essay should be internally consistent with no apparent self-contradictions.
3. **Cogency.** Your conclusions and the information which support them should be clearly distinguished from each other, and the support that the information gives to the conclusion should be logically sound. Logical soundness requires the supporting information to be true, as well as for the proposed connection between the supporting information and conclusion to be logically valid.

The grades for this essay assignment and the standards for them are:

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| A | Completely satisfies the Philosophical 3 Cs in all aspects |
| B+ | Generally satisfies the Philosophical 3 Cs with one or two minor deficiencies. |
| B | Generally satisfies the Philosophical 3 Cs with a few minor deficiencies. |
| Redo | Does not satisfy the Philosophical 3 Cs, either because of several minor or a major deficiency in some aspect. |