**Assignment: Video Assignment on Meaning Of Life**

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**Basic idea:** in pairs or groups of 3, students create a video (up to 3 minutes) that’s either a promotional video for a particular approach toward the meaning of life, or an attack ad against such an approach. They also submit a 1-page write-up, explaining their thinking behind the video and their role in creating it. That makes it possible to grade the assignment more fairly.

The **purpose** of this assignment is:

* to explore a theory about the meaning of life in more depth and from a different perspective
* to practice philosophical argumentation skills

**Instructions**: With one or at most two others, create a 2–3 minute video that is either a promotional video for, or an attack add against, one of the approaches to the meaning of life that we have encountered in the course.

Each member of the group must also submit a 1-page write-up explaining their thinking behind the video and the exact responsibilities they had in designing and producing the video. Don’t work together on the write-ups. Make sure the responsibilities are roughly equal; if anyone does not do a fair share of the work, their grade will be lower than their group mates’ grades. In your write-up, include the link to your video (e.g. a link to your video on Youtube or on another website), or a link to a file-sharing service (make sure it is a common file type).

The two main **criteria for evaluating the videos** are (a) philosophical accuracy & depth, and (b) and creativity. In other words, your video needs to present the philosophical approach, as well as the reasons for (or against) adopting it, accurately and in depth. Moreover, you need to find a creative way to present the approach and the reasons for or against it. For instance, you could incorporate a brief skit, images, a diagram, or an analogy. Aim to create a video that is informative, entertaining, and persuasive. The best 2–4 videos will be shown in class, if all of the group members give their permission.

Technological advice and resources:

* Newer smart phones often have good cameras and microphones; those will be sufficient for shooting the video. (Take some time to find out who has the best one).
* You should definitely do a test recording and make sure the volume and image quality is fine. Getting good audio is sometimes hard when recording outdoors or when there is background noise.
* There’s also a video recording studio on campus that you can reserve for free. Using that studio will result in very professional-looking footage and you can even use green screen or split screen technology there. But there’s only one studio and a lot of demand, so reserve it early and have a Plan B!
* There is free video editing software (most computers have something like that installed); that will be sufficient for pretty much all purposes. Yet, the university also has computer labs with advanced video editing software, if you want to do something more sophisticated. They also have staff who can help you.

You will have one entire class period to work on this project, plus about 10 minutes in the recitation before. I strongly recommend that you use the entire class period to shoot the video and to start editing it. That means that you should come to class with an almost completely worked out script. You can meet outside of class to prepare, or collaborate electronically.