Submission Directions

Before you submit your paper, view the "Course Specific Policies on Paper Submissions and Plagiarism (CSPPSAP)" and the "CITATIONS" pages on the Start Here Module and the **RUBRIC** below to ensure that you follow all instructions and standards for papers.  Submit your completed paper using ONLY ONE of the following file options: .doc, .docx, or .pdf.  Please see the Paper Submissions section of the CSPPSAP if you want to submit using google docs.  **NOTE: Recall that the course policy is that papers that are 15% copied or more may be failed for plagiarism.  See the CSPPSAP #6.  I also do not grade quotes, so limit the amount of quoted material in your paper.**

Paper Formatting

Papers should be in a standard 12-point font (e.g. Times New Roman, Cambria, etc.), with 1” x 1” margins, double–spaced, and include page numbers. The top left-hand side should include your name, the date, the course, and the name of your instructor.  Put a title on your paper but do not include a title page.

Paper Topics

Paper Length: 5 pages typed, double-spaced

Aristotle on Friendship.  Read Books VIII (Chapters 1-7) and IX (Chapters 1-5 and 10-12) of the *Nicomachean Ethics* on friendship.  PDF versions of the text with my notes on them are posted on Canvas.  Write a paper on Aristotle on friendship as it applies to a contemporary issue involving friendship.  This is the Core Assessment Essay for the State of Texas, and it requires that you read a classic text and apply it to a contemporary issue.  So you do have to read and cite Aristotle's original text, not summaries of that text.

Some contemporary issues (choose ONLY ONE for this paper):

1. Technology/social media friends.  The question here concerns forming or starting a friendship through technology, not maintaining an already existing friendship through technology.  A few key concepts here are: trust, the desire to spend time with that person, being familiar with that person.  The question here could concern what kind of friendship can form over social media (use and pleasure might not be that much of an issue, a friendship of goodness might not be possible only through technology).
2. Friends with Benefits.  This one is more difficult as it involves two forms of love, *eros* and *philia*.  There is no doubt the two are hanging out for the sake of pleasure, the question is: is it a friendship at all?  To determine this, one has to answer whether the two people DO anything that friends do: spend time together apart from sex, become familiar, trust, share, etc.  So the main question here is not what kind of friendship it would be, as it obviously is one of pleasure, but whether they can be counted as friends at all.
3. Friendship and marriage.  Aristotle says that husband and wife are natural friends, but he thinks the ideal friendship is displayed between two men who are in their prime and virtuous.  But there is nothing to prevent a husband and wife from being friends of the good.  In fact, a good marriage will be a friendship of goodness (highest kind of *philia*), and also contain other kinds of love, like romantic love (*eros*) and unconditional love (*agape*).  If a marriage is just use or pleasure, the relationship will not last and it will cause all kinds of problems: high divorce rate, single parent homes, psychological issues with children, etc.  So here the aim is to show what a good marriage would look like according to Aristotle, and contrast that with bad ones and all the problems that follow.
4. Parents and children.  If you choose this topic, you should include what Aristotle says about parents and children and friendship.  The main question here concerns parents who want to be buddies with their children (a friendship of pleasure).  Just like with marriage, if parents are in a relationship with their children just for pleasure, all kinds of problems ensue.
5. Other.  If you have an idea not listed here, you should clear it with me first to make sure it counts as a contemporary issue and that something about Aristotle is relevant.

Citations

You need to cite your sources for Aristotle and any external sources. To cite Aristotle, use Book and Chapter numbers (VIII.3 or IX.12, for instance) in the body of the text. So, for instance: Aristotle thinks that spending time together is one of the truest marks of friendship (VIII.5). Or with a quote: “for no one would choose to live without friends even if he had all the other goods” (VIII.1). All other citations should follow standard methods.

Here is a list of the main concepts in Aristotle that if you use or mention, you should cite: friendships take time to form, becoming familiar with each other, spending time together, a shared activity or common interest, trust, sharing, good and bad times, becoming dear or treasured, wishing well, and being well-disposed.  There are also ideas particular to the kinds of friendship in the rubric below that you should cite.

**NOTE: Papers without sufficient and accurate citations to Aristotle’s text will not be graded.**

Paper Requirements and Grading Rubric:

This rubric represents the paper **REQUIREMENTS**.  Each requirement (except for the Citations requirement) should be in its own paragraph, so you should have **SEVEN** paragraphs for this paper.  **NOTE:** Paragraph 1 has two requirements, provide an introduction and a thesis.

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| **Paragraph Number** | **REQUIREMENTS** | **Points** |
| Paragraph 1 | **REQUIREMENT:** In about 1/2 of a page, provide an introduction to your paper.  Your introduction should include a general understanding of both Aristotle's 3 kinds of friendship and your particular issue.  **EXPLANATION:**  An introduction should include general information about the topic leading to a clear thesis.  Try to imagine a reader picking up your paper who has never heard of Aristotle's views on friendship.  Your job here is to inform, in broad strokes, about the issues in this paper: Aristotle's unique view of friendship (that there are three kinds), what the current issue is,  and how the 3 kinds apply to your issue.  Choose only ONE contemporary issue. | 10 Points |
| Paragraph 1 | **REQUIREMENT:** Provide a thesis, put it at the end of the introduction.  **EXPLANATION:** A clear thesis lays out your position for your reader and what you will argue for, citing reasons why a view is wrong or why an alternative is right.  For instance: "I will argue that according to Aristotle it is impossible to have the highest kind of friendship if two people are only social media friends.  The main reason is that in order to be friends of the good, two people must know each other's character, and this is not possible over social media only."  Or: "I will argue that friends with benefits are also friendships of pleasure if the two get to know each other and spend time together apart from strictly sexual relations."  Or: "I will argue that parents should not pursue a friendship of pleasure with their children, as parents' primary role concerns raising children to be good people."  You are free to use these ideas, but DO NOT COPY my words or wording.  Again, choose only ONE issue. |  5 Points |
| Paragraph 2 | **REQUIREMENT:** In about 1/2 of a page, explain a friendship of use according to Aristotle.  You MUST CITE Aristotle's original text here.  **EXPLANATION:** The first thing you should explain here is the primary reason that the two people like each other: they primarily like each other for what they do for each other.  That is, what each person REALLY likes is the object or service exchanged, not the person.  Bring out that this is a friendship, but it is a friendship that forms around an ongoing exchange or some kind of business deal.  Two people can use each other without being friends, like a customer who goes to the same store and sees the same person.  In a friendship, two people must like each other, know a little bit about each other, develop trust, wish each other well, treat each other well, etc.  Explain that the type of love and wishing well is selfish.  The other likes you for what you do for him or her, and vice versa, and the other wishes you well so that they keep getting the useful thing or service.  For Aristotle, bad people can have this type of friendship, for example, a drug user and a drug dealer.  These friendships dissolve when there is no longer an exchange, which proves that what the two people really liked was what they received from each other, not the person. | 10 Points |
| Paragraph 3 | **REQUIREMENT:**In about 1/2 of a page, explain a friendship of pleasure according to Aristotle.  You MUST CITE Aristotle's original text here.  **EXPLANATION:** Again, the first thing you should explain here is the primary reason the two people like each other: they primarily like each other for the pleasure, joy, fun, etc. they each get by being around the other.  That is, what each person REALLY likes is the pleasure each one gets, not the person him or herself.  This kind is what most people picture when they think of friendship: two people who just like to hang out or do something together, what Aristotle calls a shared activity or common interest.  That is, sometimes we just enjoy being with a person, other times we form a friendship because we share something in common.  These friendships also include sharing, getting to know each other intimately, sharing joys and sorrows, being there for each other, developing trust, etc.  What is different in this kind, as opposed to a friendship of use, is that two people just want to be in each other's presence.  This is what Aristotle calls spending time together, which he thinks is the truest mark of friendship (VIII.5).  In a friendship of use, the two are in each other's presence only as long as it takes to exchange this for that.  A friendship of pleasure is also selfish, as you like the other for the pleasure YOU receive, and you wish them well so that you continue to enjoy their company.  Young people tend to form these kind of friendships quickly and also dissolve them quickly.  Bad people can also have this kind of friendship, two drug users, two thieves, etc.  These relationships dissolve when you either no longer enjoy the other person's company or the activities you used to share.  | 10 Points |
| Paragraph 4 | **REQUIREMENT:** In about 3/4 of a page, explain a friendship of goodness according to Aristotle.  You MUST CITE Aristotle's original text here.  **EXPLANATION:** Again, the first thing you should explain here is the primary reason the two people like each other: they primarily like each other because they are good people.  That is, what is really liked here is the good qualities the person has, or their good character.  The people here are honest, trustworthy, loyal, kind, just, brave, wise, generous, etc.  Since these qualities of persons are long-lasting, these friendships tend to be also long-lasting.  Here you do love the person, not what they do for you or the pleasure you get, you love them for who they really are.  This type of friendship will contain the lower two kinds: friends of the good will also enjoy each other and do things for each other, but they are not in the friendship primarily for use or pleasure.  The love and wishing well here are different, they are selfless: they love and wish well to the other purely for the other's sake, not their own.  The aim of this friendship is to either help each other become good, or if they are already good people, to do good for each other and strangers as well.  We tend to be more honest with our friends, loyal to them, give good counsel to them, be generous toward them, but we also display our good character toward strangers.  These friendships also take more time to develop and also require that we really know the person, as the aim here is to know the person's true character, which can take many years.  Bad people cannot have this type of friendship, as they do not have good qualities to love and they get into relationships so that they can benefit themselves.  This friendship can dissolve if one or both become what Aristotle calls "incurably evil."  If someone was a good person and "broke bad," and there is no more helping them, and being with them jeopardizes your goodness, then and only then can you call off the friendship.  We might call this "tough love": as an act of love, I am removing myself from your life.  Friendships of goodness have another name, it's also called Platonic love: truly loving someone for their character, not for shallow reasons like sex, pleasure, fun, etc. | 10 Points |
| Paragraph 5 | **REQUIREMENT:** In one full page, apply Aristotle's views on friendship to ONE contemporary issue on friendship, making sure that you argue your position based on your thesis.  **EXPLANATION:** Here you are to take the principles of Aristotle's account and apply it to your issue.  First, provide and cite information about the contemporary issue concerning friendship.  This can include general information, statistics, an author's point of view on the issue, etc.  Second, argue your thesis: take Aristotle's ideas on friendship and apply them to your issue.  This part should make a case involving the types of friendship and how you think it applies to your issue.  For instance, one might argue the following:  It is impossible to have a friendship of goodness if two people know each other only through social media.  For one, Aristotle says that in order to be friends of the good, two people must really know each other's character.  If two people are only social media friends, then they can't really know each other's character, which requires a lot of time and familiarity.  Furthermore, Aristotle argues that the desire to spend time in each other's presence is the truest mark of friendship.  If two people have no desire to see each other in person, it's not really a friendship.  Lastly, trust is integral to any friendship, and we cannot truly trust people we don't really know.  So social media friends cannot have the highest kind of friendship according to Aristotle.  NOTE: if you stated, cited and explained the concepts of Aristotle above, you do not need to cite them here again, just apply them.  Do CITE any information here that has not been previously introduced, especially any information concerning your issue. | 20 Points |
| Paragraph 6 | **REQUIREMENT:**In about 1/2 of a page, provide a personal statement about what you would do in your life concerning this issue and your personal relationships.  You do not have to cite this part. **EXPLANATION:** Here you are to provide a personal statement about what you will do as an individual with respect to this issue and how it impacts or will impact your life.  This should be in accordance with how you argued in the previous section.  If your issue is friends with benefits, you may want to discuss pleasure-seeking and how it does not lead to meaningful, committed relationships.  Your statement could include a pledge not to engage in these relationships and instead offer what you consider to be a more meaningful one.  If your issue is technology, what does this have to do with establishing trust among people, and why is trust so important for living a good life?  Your statement could include how you will go about making and maintaining friendships apart from social media.  If your issue is parenting, how will you raise your children?  Again, this is providing a personal statement about how you will approach and handle this issue in your own life. | 10 Points |
| Paragraph 7 | **REQUIREMENT:**  In about 3/4 of a page, show to your reader that you are aware of how the issue you have chosen impacts certain groups in society, specifically women, minorities and/or class.  You MUST research and cite this part.  The goal here is to gain and share your knowledge of how this issue is impacting those groups.  You do not need to argue here.  **EXPLANATION:** Here you are to show your reader how the issue you have chosen impacts certain groups like women, minorities, and/or the rich/poor.  This part must be researched and CITED, and you should include at least two groups (women and minorities, for instance).  One could say that being aware of the kind of friendship one has with another could lead to more awareness of these issues.  For instance, if your paper is about friends with benefits, what impact does this have on family and divorce, raising children, psychological issues, etc.  Friends with benefits definitely has a great impact on feminist issues.  Do some research to see whether there is any information about this issue and African-Americans or Hispanics/Latinos or Asians.  Social media friends has issues concerning psychology and social anxiety.  Does social media have an impact on women?  Has technology helped or hurt race relations?  To find information you can do basic Google searches: "friends with benefits and African-Americans," "social media and anxiety," "parenting, friendship and the effects on children," "women, social media and marriage," etc.  Again, here just share the information you find about how the issue impacts these groups. | 10 Points |
| Citations | For Aristotle, please cite by Book and Chapter number:  (VIII.3) for instance.  Please see above.  **NOTE: Papers that have no citations will be an automatic 0 for the assignment**. | 15 Points |

**Remember to CITE, to include a bibliography, and to upload your paper using one of these file types: doc, docx, pdf or Google Docs (see above).**