

Guidelines for the Second Paper

The first draft is due Wednesday, April 2nd.

The second draft is due Monday, May 5th.

Papers should be roughly five pages long, and should be submitted as an e-mail attachment in Word format. A hard copy is optional but appreciated.

If you want to choose a topic other than those suggested below, please send your proposed topic to me via e-mail as soon as possible.

Suggested topics

1. Discuss the moral judgments that Olaudah Equiano expresses in his *Interesting Narrative*. What does he consider to be morally right, and what does he consider to be morally wrong? What are the bases for these judgments? Does Equiano's morality change or evolve during the course of the *Narrative*?
2. How does Mary Wollstonecraft portray other women of her time in *Vindication of the Rights of Women*? In her view, what is their intellectual status? What kinds of power do they exercise? What causes women to be the way they are, and what remedies does she propose?
3. Discuss Mary Wollstonecraft's response to Jean-Jacques Rousseau in her *Vindication of the Rights of Women*. In what ways might Wollstonecraft be said to be inspired by Rousseau? In what ways does she disagree with Rousseau, and why?
4. In his *Groundwork for a Metaphysics of Morals*, Immanuel Kant describes the fundamental ideas of a new moral system and argues that it is superior to alternative systems. Construct a moral system of your own (noting outside influences if you have some, but taking primary responsibility yourself), and try to construct an argument in favor of this system, as Kant does. Describe the essential elements of Kant's system, and contrast them with yours.
5. Mary Shelley was Mary Wollstonecraft's daughter, and was born as Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin just a few days before her mother's death. In what ways might Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* be said to contain echoes of or responses to Mary Wollstonecraft's *Vindication of the Rights of Women*?