

# Paper assignment # 1

PHIL 13185  
Jeff Speaks

Due: Tuesday, March 6

Below are three topics for your first (real) paper. You are welcome to come up with your own topic, though you must get my approval by e-mail first. If you do this, the question that I approve should be on the first page of your essay. The papers should be at most 5-7 pages in length, double-spaced and with reasonable margins and font.

A late penalty of 3 points per day, including weekends, will be assessed for any papers which are handed in late. Papers should be handed in either in class or to my office at 205 Malloy Hall.

If you have any questions about what is or is not permitted under the honor code, please contact me.

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1. Is free will compatible with determinism? Do we have free will? Consider the arguments of Sider and van Inwagen.
2. Explain what sorts of evils van Inwagen thinks are due to human free will, and why. Is van Inwagen correct that free will can explain the presence of evils of this sort in a world created by an omnipotent, omnibenevolent, omniscient being? Why or why not?
3. Explain in your own words the consequence argument for the conclusion that free will is incompatible with divine foreknowledge. Explain two or more of what you take to be the most promising responses to this argument. Are these responses convincing? Why or why not?