

Engl 96IY, Fall 2008: Board Games  
Second Essay Assignment: Due October 2

Topic: Game theory. What makes a game challenging, enjoyable, or just plain fun? Write a short essay (500 words, or two typed and double-spaced pages) in which you answer any part of that question, using examples from the games we have covered so far in class, and offering quotations from at least two sources on “game theory.” You’ll need to find those sources in the library full-text databases, and at least one of them must be academic in nature (and “peer-reviewed”). Since you only have two pages, be sure not to waste time on generalizations, vague descriptions, or long quotations—come right to the point you want to make (that is, identify your thesis and explain it), then support it with examples from the games and short quotations from your sources.

In drafting your essay, focus on a limited aspect of your topic; define or describe the concepts necessary for a full understanding of your particular approach; and construct a developed thesis explaining the significance of that aspect. In your essay, the thesis should contain the *specific point to be proved*, and your paragraphs should all work toward proving it. To support your readings and to make your analysis clear, you will need to quote short passages from the texts (your game-theory sources from the library databases), integrated into your own prose, which relate to the central scenes or themes of your essay. Please cite the page number for each quotation or group of quotations parenthetically at the end of the phrase or sentence, and avoid using long, indented quotations. Using shorter quotations makes it easier to establish how you are reading the passage, through discussion and analysis, as well as how you are employing that reading in supporting the thesis of your essay. Revise for content and to strengthen your thesis and transitions; proofread thoroughly, even if you use a spell-checker first; and follow either MLA or APA style (depending on your major), including a Works Cited list at the end. Be sure to cite your sources according to the same format (APA or MLA), list them in the Works Cited, and *never* assume a web page is a reliable source without investigating the information further.

Before you submit a printed version of the essay on October 2nd, you will need to submit an electronic copy at [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com). There is a link to the site, and instructions on how to create an account and submit your essay, on the course web page. To submit a paper for this class on turnitin.com, you need to know the course code number (2423527) and password (chess). Please create your turnitin account as soon as possible, just in case you have a problem.