Final Paper

I. Assignment

Compose an essay, approximately 4-5 pages long, addressing one of the topics below. 
Due: December 5, 2008

In the movie “Clockwork Orange” Alex, the protagonist, engages in a series of vicious actions including assault, robbery, rape, and manslaughter. During his imprisonment, he requests to undergo an experimental treatment which conditions him to feel repulsion at acts of violence thereby inhibiting his performance of such acts in the future.

1) Are Alex’s actions any less free after the treatment than before? Why / why not? (Hint: to determine whether or not his actions are any less free after the treatment, it is necessary to determine whether his actions are free before and whether his actions are free after the treatment. This requires you to provide a theoretical account of what it is that makes an action free and to then apply this to Alex’s case).

2) Is Alex morally responsible for his vicious actions? His non-vicious actions? Why / why not?

II. Instructions

- Write an essay which clearly argues for a position on one of these questions.
- Papers should be 4-5 pages in length, typed, double-spaced, 1” margins, 12 point font.

In developing your essay you need to do the following:

- Take a clear position on the topic. Underline your thesis statement.
- Explicate the theoretical account which supports your position.
- Consider an objection to your position. Show knowledge of a competing theoretical account which challenges your position.
- Critically evaluate. Work through the issue by responding to the objection and by providing additional reasons in support of your position.

Your essay will be graded according to how well you fulfill each of these criteria.
III. Structure

Your paper should consist of an introduction, a body, and a conclusion.

**Introduction:** Your introduction should briefly and clearly identify the topic, your position, and how you will argue for your position. Underline your thesis statement.

**Body:** The body of the paper should explain your position and the reasons in support of it, consider an objection, and critically evaluate the issue by responding to that objection and providing additional reasons in support of your position.

**Conclusion:** The conclusion should briefly restate your central point and how you argued for it.

IV. Secondary sources

Secondary sources are permitted but are not required. **If you choose to use secondary sources, you must reference them, even if they are not directly quoted or referred to in your paper.**

V. Collaborative efforts

This paper is to be written by you and you alone. While you may discuss general ideas with others, you may not write your papers together and you should not create outlines together. That is, you should not come up with an agreed upon idea and way of developing that idea and then proceed to each write essentially the same paper. Doing so is in violation of the honor code.

You may (and probably should) have someone proofread your paper. This person can raise questions for you to consider, point out rough sections that need further clarification, and make structural or grammatical suggestions.

VI. Writing center

The writing center is a valuable resource that you may want to use. Trained tutors are available to help with your essay, free of charge. See their website at www.snc.edu/writingcenter.