**Fables Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Your first project assignment involves writing a fable (a short story that employs animals as characters and advances a particular moral). This is will one of three (or four) writing pieces you will choose from when we publish a book at the end of the semester.

**Your Task**

Your task is to write a fable that supports one of the moral theories presented below:

* Utilitarianism
* Libertarianism
* Individual Rights
* Kantian Theory
* Virtues
* Cultural Relativism
* Moral Subjectivism
* Divine Command Theory

The outcome (moral) will reflect the theory that you have selected. Let’s say for example, I select **cultural relativism.** The fable I write will need to uphold the theory.

Let’s say write a story about a penguin that travels to Africa where he sees a pride of lions\*, which having just awoken from a long nap\*\*, kill a zebra\*\*\* He writes a poem in the local newspaper\*\*\*\* criticizing the lions for killing the zebra as he was merely out accompanying his friend who had spotted a patch of grass\*\*\*\*\*, and with whom the penguin feels connected even in this far away land, given their similar color. The penguin finds his article censured by the local population, who argue that lions have been killing and eating zebra for centuries. With his self-esteem deflated\*\*\*\*\*\* by the response to his article, the penguin returns to Antarctica, where he can live among his fellow penguin on an abundant supply of fish and squid.

***Moral: To each his own.***

* \* a strong willed, cold-blooded animal – Smalley Test
* \*\* lions sleep upwards of 20 hours a day – research
* \*\*\* lions are predators of zebr
* \*\*\*\* as the penguin is an intellectual and poetic animal – “Animal in You” quiz
* \*\*\*\*\* (zebras are loyal – “animal in you quiz” and highly social (research) and eat grasses)
* \*\*\*\*\*\* as the penguin tends to struggle with self esteem – “Animal in You” quiz

Then, I’d need to write a paragraph about how the story advances a moral supported by the theory of Cultural Relativism.

In this story, the penguin travels to a new place and encounters a culture unlike his own, a culture in which killing a zebra is acceptable. The penguin is disturbed by this act and writes a letter to the local newspaper. He is deflated by the censure his letter receives, and so he returns to Antarctica where he can live on a supply of fish and squid. This story supports the theory of cultural relativism, which states that right and wrong are determined by the particular culture of relevance. In this case, the culture of lions supports the killing of zebra’s for food. While this may seem immoral to the penguin, this would not be perceived as an immoral act because this act is supported by the culture of the lions. Likewise, as the penguin returns to Antarctica, he is able to feed on fish and squid, an act that members of other cultures might find immoral, but which to the penguin is an acceptable practice.

**Requirements**

**You must first write an outline (that shows you have done your research).**

Choose a moral theory

Choose a moral that fits with in that framework

Then, plan what will help you tell the story best:

* Why are you selecting the animals you have selected?
* What will those animals be like? What details will you add based on research?
* How will your story flow?

**Then, you will write your story. Your story must:**

1. Incorporate 2 or more animals.
2. Use relevant information re: personality & behaviors.
3. Must use descriptive language and be well-written (grammar, punctuation, flow).
4. Possess a moral at the end that corresponds to the moral theory you have selected. In other words, your fable must convey a message to the audience about a moral (as viewed within that moral theory) and the moral must be written as the final line of the fable.
5. You must include a, well-written one paragraph that explains what moral theory you have selected and how your story conveys a perspective of this theory.

\* Bonus, if you have time, create a visual that accompanies your fable.

**Benchmarks**:

**Title**

Name

Fable (see requirements above). Include moral at end of fable. No more than 1 pg. double spaced.

Explanation of theory in relation to your story

Picture (attached) is optional.

Draft 1: First Draft Friday beginning of class for critique **(draft & critique participation worth 10 pts.)**

Draft 2: Due Monday beginning of class for critique (draft & critique participation worth **5 pts + 5 pts adult critique).**

Draft 3: Final draft due Wednesday beginning of class (typed, polished, meeting all requirements above and in format outlined above. **(final draft worth 20 pts.)**