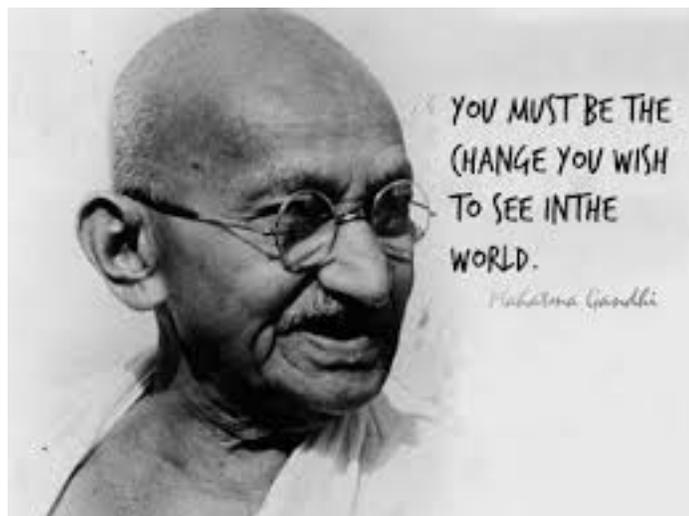


CSUS Philosophy Department
2016 Nammour Student Essay Competition:
“The Argument from Causal Impotence”



“But why?”

The CSUS Department of Philosophy Department encourages students enrolled at CSUS or colleges in the Los Rios Community District to submit essays addressing **the problem of causal impotence and environmental harm**.

Many of the world's most pressing problems -- poverty and starvation, global warming, the problematic treatment of non-human animals -- are larger than what any ordinary person can accomplish through changes in their charitable giving and economic or dietary choices. Trying hard as we might, the most any of us can do is make a negligible difference. Some argue that this means that we don't have any obligation to do anything about these problems. A short presentation of something approaching this argument from causal impotence is a delightful essay published here:

<http://www.theonion.com/blogpost/im-doing-my-inconsequential-part-for-the-environme-11225>

Students are invited to write a short critical essay focusing on their best understanding of the problem of causal impotence and environmental harm. Essays will be judged for accuracy, clarity, creativity, elegance, and insight by a panel of Philosophy Department faculty.

Instructions:

- Submit your essay as an attachment in .doc, .docx, or .pdf format to Kim Dinnen via email (dinnen@csus.edu) before 9:00AM on Monday March 28, 2016. Be sure to use this subject line: 2016 Nammour Student Essay Competition.
- Please do not put any identifying information on your essay, but do include your name, student ID number, and contact phone number in the email you send to Kim.
- Essays should not exceed 1500 words (including and references and notes).
- Any referencing style is fine, but you should use one.

Additional rules and information:

- Previous winners of the Nammour Student Essay Competition may not submit an essay this year.
- In order to be awarded the prize, the selected entrants must present their essay at the 2016 Nammour Student Essay Event, to be held on Wednesday April 13 in the Forest Suite of the Union from 1:30-3 p.m.
- During the evening on Wednesday April 13, in recognition of student achievement in the Nammour Student Essay Competition, a dinner will be organized for all those presenting at the event and some Philosophy Department faculty. Attendance at the dinner is not required to be a recipient of the Nammour Student Essay Competition award. The cost of the meal will be covered by the Philosophy Department.
- Submitted essays can be essays written for classes at Sac State or elsewhere, but they cannot have previously been submitted to an essay competition at Sac State.
- Submitted essays must follow Sac State's academic honesty policy: <http://www.csus.edu/umannual/student/STU-0100.htm>.
- Submissions may be put through Turnitin.com to check for plagiarism.
- Maximum of one submission per student.