

<Your Name>

Educ 4<XX>

<TITLE: What Sean is “looking for” in a discussion point assignment>

The structure you should adhere to in these single –paged, double spaced, 12 pt. font (<350 word) discussion point (DP) assignments include parameters that I have made not of in this sentence. A DP will also include your name, the course, the due date, and assignment number, as evidenced the footer and header of this page. Also, your DP will consist of only two paragraphs. The first paragraph will clearly and succinctly articulate a topic that you found of particular interest or importance in the assigned readings. You should connect your discussion point to the text, and provide page numbers; you can assume that everyone has read the assigned readings.

The second paragraph discussed why you have found the topic you raised in the first paragraph to be (one of) the most interesting and/or important aspect(s) encountered in the assigned readings. Here I will be looking for indications as to how closely, fairly, and thoroughly you have engaged the assigned readings, and how your point connects with other issues that have been raised therein. You can appeal to other writings in support, but they should be cited, and they must bear directly on your discussion point (singular). There is no need for you to bring you discussion to firm conclusion (s). I will only be seeking evidence that you have read closely, rendered accurately, and approached your topic in an open , reflective, insightful, and critically-minded manner. Illustrate that you have grasped or at least grappled diligently with the nature and potential implications of the issues that you have chosen to raise and discuss. The more succinctly you identify your point, the more space you will have to raise and discuss various facets thereof.

<day mo year>

DP # <N>

Augustine on Moral Education: This Sounds Familiar!

The readings this week shed *light* on the Platonic influence in the works of Augustine. In fact, “Augustine agreed with Plato that the ideas constituted the stable and unchangeable forms of all things and provided a solid epistemological bases for human knowledge” (Tarnas, p. 106). Augustine states, “for everything we perceive we perceive either through a sense of the body or by the mind. The former we call sensible, the latter, intelligible” (Reed & Johnson, p. 34). I claim that Augustine’s return to God, in his conversion narrative *Confessions*, is just a retelling of the platonic allegory of the cave.

Augustine, in his discussion on moral education, distinguished between two realms, knowing the good and doing the good. He claims that, “conversion cannot be achieved without divine assistance” (Rorty, p. 86). The platonic *feel* of this discussion comes forth in the following quotations: “my stiff neck took me further and further away from you,” “fettered by the flesh’s morbid impulse and lethal sweetness, I dragged my chain, but was afraid to be free of it” and “I was twisting and turning my chain until I would brake completely; I was now only a little bit held by it, but I was still held” (Rorty, p. 87). Augustine is inside the cave yet, eventually breaks from the chains. “It was as if a light of relief from all anxiety flooded into my heart. All the shadows of doubt were dispelled” (Rorty, p. 90). The light of relief was in fact divine intervention because “Christ was the sun” (Tarnas, p. 116). Augustine’s belief in Christ (the *one*) is what allows him to escape the cave and thus bridge the gap between knowing the good and doing the good. In this retelling of a Platonic allegory, why choose the cave? Did we learn anything new?