

Spring 2014
PHI 202, Section 03
First Paper Assignment
Prof. Douglas Ficek

Write a paper, six pages in length, on one of the following topics. Revise your work carefully, and remember to cite your sources appropriately. Your typed and stapled essay is due at the beginning of class on March 18th.

1. What does Alexis de Tocqueville say about American philosophy and the highly individualistic approach that Americans take toward knowledge? Do you think that his analysis rings true today? Use two additional sources.
2. What does Jonathan Edwards say about human beings and their relationship with God? How does he reconcile determinism and moral responsibility? Do you think that his arguments are convincing? Use two additional sources.
3. What is Enlightenment, and how are its values manifest in the writings of the American Revolutionaries? Do you think that the United States has faithfully upheld these values in recent years? Use two additional sources.
4. What does David Walker say about America slavery, and how does his argument develop? Do you think that he successfully rebuts the pro-slavery arguments of his time? Use two additional sources.
5. What does Elizabeth Cady Stanton say about the status of women in the United States, and how does self-sovereignty relate to the reversal of this status? Do you think that her arguments are convincing? Use two additional sources.