

Research Paper: What is Business For? Catholic Social Teaching

General requirements: 10 pages, typed, double-spaced (New Times Roman, 12 point font). The paper must follow all the rules for sound research papers as well as proper references as taught in College Writing courses. It should also include a bibliography of each of the books and articles you use for your paper. The Style that should be followed is the Chicago Manual of Style (<http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/home.html> or <http://www.libs.uga.edu/ref/chicago.html>) or the simplified form known as Turabian (<http://www.libs.uga.edu/ref/turabian.html>). If there are any questions please check with me well ahead of the due date.

Specific requirements: There are three major components to this paper (**Seeing, Judging, Acting**), each of which must be completed for the paper to receive credit. These pieces are to be integrated into a unified paper. *The Vocation of the Business Leader* should be utilized, as well as additional articles/resources. **Due date is specified in the syllabus.**

- **Seeing (description and analysis):** In this section, you will look at an issue and describe the problem as well as provide an analysis of key aspects. In this section you want to describe the problem that you are looking at. Research is directed toward analyzing the problem from a variety of perspectives. Develop a list of initial questions that you want to see answered as you begin your research. As you do so make sure to list any additional questions that arise and explore these as well. What is the scope of the problem? What are its social, economic, political, and cultural dimensions? What might be possible ways to address it? What factors need to be addressed in order to bring about a just transformation? “Why is this happening?” should be a guiding question. Another would be: “who benefits from the status quo?”
- **Judging (engagement with Catholic social teaching):** Examine the issue from the perspective of the principles of Catholic social teaching. What principles help illustrate the concerns that one should have? What principles must be respected for there to be a just solution? Our texts book should be helpful in this regard.
- **Acting:** What kinds of actions would be useful in addressing the concern? In this section you could look at groups that are already addressing this issue and describe how they work and why their contribution is important.

Don't forget **paper organization** (introduction/main body: seeing, judging, acting/conclusion) and **proofreading**.

Topics: Choose an issue below. Use the **See, Judge, Act model** to frame the issue, engage with concepts from Catholic social thought, and recommend practical responses for how to address the concerns. Your paper must show evidence of research into the topic as well as an understanding of the principles of Catholic social thought.

- The Search for the Most Desperate Workers: explore the challenges raised by companies seeking lower labor costs by moving factories to low wage areas, utilization of sweatshop labor, and concerns of free trade/fair trade
- Immigrant Workers: The Most Vulnerable Among Us: explore the challenges that immigrant workers face (wage theft, day labor, migrant work)
- Violence Against Creation: choose an environmental issue directly resulting from business practices and present the challenges businesses face in becoming “greener” and communities face when dealing with environmental degradation from businesses that the communities often need and depend on for their well-being
- The Politics of Food: explore issues of food sovereignty, trade, and distribution of a community's resources (think of universal destination of created goods and you may find some useful materials at Food First: <http://foodfirst.org/>)
- Pensions and Retirements: what are the issues involved when a company puts at risk (through underfunding retirement accounts) or reneges on its obligations (through bankruptcy proceedings)
- Labor/Management Disputes: research examples of major labor disputes and choose one to illustrate the roles and responsibilities of management, labor, consumers, and government.
- Product Safety Issues: what are the roles and responsibilities of different constituencies from corporations to government agencies, to consumers etc.? Choose a real-world example to illustrate your paper.