

PHI 2010 – Team-based Assignment #4: Right To Believe? Name: _____

Instructions: Write name legibly. Explain so that smart people who have not taken our class will understand.

Which of the following sentences are true? Which are false?

True False Mark Rowlands thinks that we have a duty to not criticize each others' beliefs.

True False Mark Rowlands thinks that we have a duty to listen to each others' beliefs.

True False Mark Rowlands thinks that we have a duty not to forcibly strip each other of our beliefs.

Complete the following sentence from "A Right To Believe?"

The absence of a firm distinction is _____
_____.

In your words, explain what Joel Feinberg means by a "right"—including what is meant by 'valid' (p. 2).

Explain Shane's student's interpretation of a "moral right to believe". (p.2)

If we apply Joel Feinberg's analysis to Shane's student's notion of right, what can you conclude? (Include the premises in the argument for the conclusion.) Hint: look for "Applying this analysis,..." (p. 3).

Explain one of Rowland's (two) reasons for thinking that that argument and/or conclusion is "untenable".

In your own words, explain Creedism (p. 5). This can be done with as little as one sentence.

Using Rowland's "two vital qualifications", explain how Creedism is different from Racism or Sexism (p. 5).

Explain Sellars' distinction between "the space of reasons" and "the space of causes".

What does Mark Rowlands mean by a “moral right to believe”? (Hint: It involves a “claim against” and a “claim to”.) Explain both senses of that moral right to believe, according to Mark Rowlands. (p. 8)

Do you agree with what Mark Rowland thinks we should say to Shane? Why?

Do you agree with what Mark Rowland thinks we should say to Wayne? Why?

Do you agree with what Mark Rowland thinks we should say to Jayne? Why?

Complete the expanded versions of these arguments.

There could be no evil if God is all powerful, all knowing, and all good. But evil exists.

If _____ then _____.

It is not the case that _____.

So, _____.

All societies would have similar moral norms if morality were objective. But society’s moral norms vary.

If _____ then _____.

It is not the case that _____.

So, _____.

The president is either competent or she isn’t. And it’d be hyperbolic to say that she’s incompetent.

_____ or _____.

It is not the case that _____.

So, _____.