ESSAY WRITING GUIDELINES

- 1. Keep it short and to the point, one page maximum. Include name, date, and week number.
- 2. Although I'd prefer a well-written essay, with good choice of words and good sentence structure, the main thing I'm looking for is a coherent train of thought.
- 3. Your ideas don't have to be original, although if you do have an original idea, please include it.
- 4. When finished, your essay should be suitable as a reference for meaningful discussion.
- 5. Be able to discuss the ideas in your essay without notes.

ESSAY WRITING TIPS

- 1. Create an outline first, with your main ideas as topics.
- 2. Weave them together to build a logical flow.
- 3. Don't worry about precise wording; worry about overall structure.
- 4. This is about organizing the information in your head. Think organization!

SAMPLE ESSAY

The writer of Genesis chapter 1 had a "narrative based" worldview. This is different from a "scientific" worldview. The narrative based worldview believes in meaning and purpose. The scientific worldview believes in cold facts. There are benefits and drawbacks to both worldviews.

Benefits of the narrative worldview:

- 1. Meaning
- 2. Morality
- 3. Etc.

Drawbacks of the narrative worldview:

- 1. Dogmatic thinking
- 2. Superstition
- 3. Etc.

Benefits of the scientific worldview:

- 1. Upgrade in standard of living
- 2. Freedom from dogma and superstition
- 3. Etc.

Drawbacks of the scientific worldview:

- 1. Lack of meaning and purpose
- 2. Degradation of morals
- 3. Etc.

We should attempt to incorporate elements of both these worldviews into a belief structure that is coherent and non-self-contradictory. This means we might have to rethink some of our beliefs.