FIRST PAPER

Write an essay in answer to one of the following questions:

1. What is Beauvoir’s view of the self?

   (In your essay, be sure to include some discussion of the relation between self and other and of the relation between the self of yesterday and the self of tomorrow as well as discussion of other topics you think are important.)

2. In Civilization and Its Discontents, Freud thinks civilization is the main source of our misery rather than thinking that it is a positive good for us. Is he right?

   (In your essay, explain why he thinks civilization is such a source. Consider some other views on the topic, for example, that civilization makes the best things in life possible, that it gives us the means to do the most important things in life, or others, and explain how he could argue against those views.)

3. In Civilization and Its Discontents, Freud makes sex and aggression our basic drives. Is he right about our basic drives, or are there others that are equally basic?

   (Explain his reasons for thinking of aggression as basic. Are his reasons good? What are your reasons for thinking there are other drives--and that they are basic, not derived?)

Be sure to quote the text to support your claims and, where appropriate, to explain the text you have quoted. Be sure to give reasons for your main claims. Start out with a strong thesis statement which answers the essay question. Think of having three or four main points in support of your thesis, and of developing and supporting each in detail.

LENGTH: five or six pages

DUE DATE: Thursday, February 25, 2016