I have attached my paper to this email. I have had teachers the for some reason can not open my attachments so I am also going to put my paper in the email just in case.

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Econ 4999
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4999 Patchin Essay 1 Topic

For my first essay I have decided I would like to write about the TV show and the character of Dexter and how his actions are perceived in different kinds of ethical philosophies. I got this idea in class last Thursday. Below is a rough outline of how I plan to go about my essay.

To start the essay I would talk about the show and the character. I would talk about how Dexter is a murderer who kills child molesters, killers and other law breakers of society. I would also introduce the idea that he has some psychological disorder. It never says in the show what he has but I believe that he is a sociopath.

After walking about the character in would talk a little about what is a sociopath. I will talk about the diagnostic criteria, symptoms, and what makes a sociopath. I will try to figure out is that is what Dexter is.

Once I have that background I will talk about Dexter’s actions with in certain ethical theories. The first one being the ethics of an economist. In this paragraph I will talk about the cost and benefits of Dexter’s actions to society, to Dexter and to Dexter’s victim. I will talk about how the utility of society is raised by having a murderer off the street. I will also talk about how Dexter’s victims harm productive members of society, while when Dexter kills he is increasing the utility of society.

In this paragraph I might bring up the idea of utilitarianism. In this idea the act is not good or bad, everything depends on the consequences. I could talk about how society is better off and the killing is inconsequential. I might also bring up consequentialism, processists and process consequentialism and how Dexter’s actions are viewed differently in all three ways of thinking.

After this paragraph I was thinking of talking about Natural Law Theory and Human Nature Theory. Is it natural for Dexter to be killing people? Society kills murderers in the electric chair and through lethal injection. Higher primates kill other higher primates. Is killing natural?

Next I was thinking I could talk about Rights Theory. Everyone has the right to live. Dexter is killing these people and violating that right. But his victims are also killing and harming people so they are also violating that right. Who counts in society? Is it ok to kill them because they are murderers and they are violating peoples right to live?

I was also thinking about talking about Divine Command theory and exter. How the Bible and the ten commandments say that murder is not allowed. That would be a short paragraph though.

I have a number of books and I have ordered some more. Here is a list of the books I have.

1. Natural Law and Natural Rights by John Finnis (ordered but hasn’t arrived yet)
2. Ethical Theory: Classical and Contemporary Readings by Louis P. Pojman (ordered but hasn’t arrived yet)
3. Value in Ethics and Economics by Elizabeth Anderson (ordered but hasn’t arrived yet)
4. The Complete Idiot’s Guide to Understanding Ethics by David Bruce Ingram Ph.D. and Jennifer A Parks, Ph.D. chapters 4 (God made me do it R) chapter 7 (“Us first” ethics R) Chapter 13 (Consequentialist Theories R) chapter 21 (Social Justice).
5. The Sociopath Next Door by Martha Stout Ph.D. (bought it today. Will read soon.)
6. Abnormal Psychology an integrative approach by David H Barlow and V Mark Durand Chapter 12 (Personality Disorders R)
7. Your notes on the web page of moral philosophies R
8. A survey of ethical ideas and theories - VanDeVeer and Pierce
9. Good Natured - The Origins of Right and Wrong in Humans and Other Animals, Frans de Waal, a primatologist looks a human nature
10. 30 Seconds on John Rawls and the Theory of Justice R
11. Nicholas Wade, NYT 03102007, Scientist finds the beginning of morality in primate behavior, Nicolas Wade, NYT 03202007
12. Steven Pinker, The Moral Instinct, Steven Pinker, NYT 01132008 R
13. I am also going to listen to the pod casts that you have posted on your web cite
14. Dexter Season 1

If you have any more suggestions for readings I would appreciate it.