

Student Name
English1102 R
11:30 – 12:45
Essay 2 Revision

Professor's comments from turnitin:

[Student Name], as you can see from reading the assignment requirements above, you did not follow the assignment. You need to enter the scholarly conversation about aliens by using at least four quotes and three paraphrases formatted in either APA or MLA style. You have not used any quotes or paraphrases and you have no citations. Your essay is also less than 500 words long; the assignment calls for at least 1000 words. I know you can write a successful essay; you did that with essay 1, showing that you learned how to use quotes in your writing. But you did not apply those same skills here. You will have the chance to revise this assignment and have it regraded. If you do revise, you must do the following: 1) Read the assignment carefully. The assignment is in D2L. 2) Follow the assignment as you write, using quotes and paraphrases. 3) Write a fully developed argument either for or against SETI in seven or more paragraphs; you must write at least 1000 words.

Summary of my revisions:

I revised my essay by rewriting the whole paper because before I did not follow the instructions provided by my professor. I originally did not have 1000 words, seven paragraphs, four quotes, and two paraphrases. I rewrote my whole paper because I felt I did it rushed last time where I did not follow instructions or do my best work. Have you ever typed a paper then lost it? So you have to retype the whole thing and the outcome is ten times better? This is how I feel about me writing the whole paper over. I did keep some of what I wrote, but I added entire sentences to turn paragraph 3 into 3 and 4, 5 into 5 and 6, and 7 into 7 and 8. I added a new question to my introduction. I added all missing quotes and paraphrases in my body paragraphs. I fixed several verb errors as well on pages 1, 2 and 4. I strengthened paragraph transitions on pages 2 and 3. I added parenthetical citations after all my quotes.

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1207 words

Do you, or do you know someone who believes in aliens? Do you believe that we are not alone? A recent study shows that nearly half of Americans believe in some form of alien life. The universe we live in is a vast, complex system made up of normal and dark matter as well as dark energy. Whether or not our universe can support alien life on another planet is often called into question. Many skeptics believe that alien life is neither existent nor possible, claiming that alien belief may be some sort of “religious impulse” (Aldiss 1024) Whether you believe in aliens or not, you cannot deny the facts about our universe.

It is widely believed that there are intelligent beings out there in the universe. The United States government even has investments in gaining knowledge of any form of alien life. As stated in an article by Clive Trotman, “millions of dollars are being spent on a supreme exercise in futility, The Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI).” (22). In the article, he states that he believes their efforts to be futile, asking “what do the operators and funders expect to achieve?” (23). Like thousands of citizens, Trotman believes that any form of communication with aliens is technically implausible. He uses past prospective star systems as examples of

failure, asking “how are we to pick up signals from thousands, millions, billions of light years away?” (24).

Some even believe that the government and citizens who believe in aliens are¹ “desperately” searching for answers (1027). An article on the skepticism of alien life by Brian Aldiss² states that alien life is only part of believers’ imagination. The article also states, “Nothing except statistics supports the idea that life (or at least intelligent life) exists anywhere else but the Earth. The evidence in our own solar system is decisively negative” (1029). Aldiss believes that there is no hope and that the government’s efforts to contact alien life in our universe are a waste.

Astrobiology is the science that Aldiss mocks. It is a mixture of astronomy and biology. It is the study of the origin, evolution, distribution, and future of life in the universe. Astrobiologists study the aspects of human and inhuman life. Astrobiology is often compared to xenobiology, the study of synthetic biology. It can also be known as the study of the “strange”. As stated in an article by Jack Cohen and Ian Stewart, “the history of science indicates that any discussion of alien life will be misleading if it is based on the presumption that contemporary science is the ultimate in human understanding” (99). Xenobiology has always been thought to be “misleading,” calling its plausibility into question. This is the only study to deeply examine any possibility of alien life outside of earth (96). It would make sense that its subject would be regularly called into question by those who are skeptical, no matter the heavy evidence it may present to the world.

¹ I cut a sentence here.

When it comes to searching for life in the universe, our resources are endless, and yet they are limited all at the same time. An article written by world-renowned professor A.S Berg states that many things should be taken into consideration” “Though the specific mechanisms³ from which life sprung remains a bone of contention, it is known that for life to develop,⁴ certain elements are needed: carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, oxygen, phosphorus, and sulfur. These elements, created through the Big Bang and stellar evolution, form the backbone of life, and exist far and wide in our universe” (44). This basically means that there are certain regulations for life to be created in any world. These are the things that need to be taken into consideration when searching for answers in the extraterrestrial world.

Some planets can host life. Some planets are too gaseous and dangerous to be habitable. Berg states “Not all planets are created equal. Ergo not all planets provide safe havens for life. A typical star system contains rocky inner planets and gaseous outer planets. Rocky planets tend to be more favorable environments for life, as there exists the possibility of water on their surface” (46). This basically means that every planet is different. If aliens were too existing, their planet might have their own earth-like accommodations for their race.

Before we can answer to if aliens exist, we must first educate ourselves on the true meaning of life. The article written by Cohen and Stewart states “the current belief that DNA

² I cut a sentence here

³ I cut a fragment here

holds the key to life as a general phenomenon might reflect an unnecessarily narrow perspective” (86). Basically, this means that it is foolish of skeptics to believe that human DNA is the sole key to life. No one knows for sure what is out in the universe, and to think that humans are the dominant form of life in our world we know such little about, is simply ignorant. Before we can truly discover the answer as to whether aliens exist, we must first stop viewing ourselves as the dominant race.

The novel, *Story of Your Life*, is a science fiction novella that involves aliens actually coming to Earth and sharing their knowledge with humans. The book serves as an immense example for the alien-believing community to prove that aliens might be real. Even though it is only a science fiction novel, science fiction stories are loosely based off of real life, meaning that the events that take place in the book could occur. Skeptics who believe that the government’s efforts are futile simply refuse to listen to reason. No one knows the real truth, but to dismiss theories that come with facts is simply ignorant.

Alien life has always been a controversial issue between believers and nonbelievers. Some want to find the life the government has invested billions of dollars into finding. Some want to interact with extraterrestrial life and see what all they have to offer in knowledge and culture. Then, there are those who simply want to prove they are right. They refuse to let go of the silly notion that human life could possibly not be the dominant race in our fragile world.

Perhaps, this would be a reality check for the simple-minded skeptics.⁵

⁴ I cut my old final sentence.