

## Essay Structure Handout: Narrowing the Focus of the Topic

A student opts to answer the following essay topic question:

**Jamieson suggests that a focus upon character would provide a better ethical basis for addressing climate change. Do you agree?**

The student decides to compose an essay agreeing with Jamieson.

Three hypothetical essay structures:

### Option A

Introduction

Section 1: summarizing Jamieson's arguments against the management approach

Section 2: summarizing Jamieson's arguments against the responsibility paradigm

Section 3: describing Hill's application of virtue ethics to environmental issues

Conclusion

### Option B

Introduction

Section 1: Supporting argument as to why a virtue approach would be helpful in addressing the temporal and spatial aspects of climate change

Section 2: Objection from the standpoint of Simon and the management approach

Section 3: Reply to the objection by summarizing Jamieson's critique of the management approach

Conclusion

### Option C

Introduction

Section 1: Supporting argument as to why a virtue approach would be helpful in addressing the temporal and spatial aspects of climate change

Section 2: Objection drawn from Hursthouse's paper: that virtue ethics provides insufficient guidance on action

Section 3: Reply to the objection using Hursthouse and the student's own contention that the lack of action-focused guidance is actually beneficial in dealing with problems where there is a fragmentation of agency

Conclusion

**Other things being equal, which Option will make for the stronger essay?**