

Jeff Morrison  
PHIL 1400 Term Paper Proposal

For my topic I will discuss the topic of affirmative action. I will discuss which aspects of affirmative action are not progressive and should be addressed in other ways, as well as which concepts of affirmative action may be beneficial with regard to solving the problem of equality in opportunity. My primary argument will be that affirmative action is a misguided attempt at a solution to the problem of equal opportunity.

I will start with a logic-driven explanation of the problem that affirmative action claims to solve. This explanation will be based on causal correlations between sources of opportunity and their pathways toward actual opportunity and success. From this explanation I will show that affirmative action is based on assumptions that indirectly correlate minority status to lack of opportunity. Because of the indirect nature of these correlations, I will show that they do not address the issue of equality in opportunity.

I will then discuss common arguments that support affirmative action and why they are or are not valid. In each case, I will relate the argument back to my original indirect-correlation concept.

Finally I will suggest that an alternative, albeit more complex, sum of solutions would result in a faster more direct pathway toward equality in opportunity and success than affirmative action can.