

Comparative Essay Guidelines & Topics

Introduction: Following the Charles J. Cannon Edinburgh Geriatric Tutorial (end of October), students will submit an 8-10 page essay comparing some aspect of health care for elderly people in the U.S. (Ohio) and Scotland (Edinburgh). You may concentrate on an individual, bullet-pointed topic or choose one of the broader headings to define the scope of the essay.

Possible topics include:

Undergraduate Education in Geriatric Medicine

The Role of the Primary Care Physician

Home & Community-Based Services

- Senior Center Services
- Nutrition Sites
- Adult Day Care Centers
- Home-Based Services
- Home Delivered Meals – “Meals on Wheels”

Caregiver Services

- Respite Care
- Support Groups

Paying for Medical and Long-Term Care

- Medicare (U.S.)
- Medicaid (U.S.)
- National Health Service, NHS, (Scotland)

Advance Directives or Planning for Incapacity

- Patient Self Determination Act (U.S.)
- Living Will (U.S.)
- Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care

Supportive Services & Programs

- Support Groups, example, Alzheimer’s Support Group, Parkinson’s Support Group

Use of Restraints (physical and chemical)

Rehabilitation Services

- Hip Fracture
- CVA

Continuum of Care Services

- Geriatrics Ambulatory Services
- Geriatric Assessment Programs
- Hospital
- Assisted Living
- Adult Day Care Programs
- Life Care Communities
- Long-term Care (nursing home, skilled, unskilled)

Medical Care Near the End-of-Life

- Palliative Care
- Hospice

Elder Abuse & Neglect

- Adult Protective Services (OH)
- Reporting Requirements

Ethical Issues

- Elements of Informed Consent
- Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia
- Ordinary vs. Extraordinary Treatments