

Philosophy 2330: Science and Society
Spring 2017
Sixth (and last) short essay assignment

Please print your essay and bring it to class on Tuesday, May 2nd. **ALSO** please make your essay anonymous by putting your R# at the top of the page and **NOT** your name.

You are to write roughly one page (400-600 words) on related to either the role of science in a democratic society or on the role that values play (or ought to play) in science.

The essay should make specific reference to either the reading from Kitcher, from Douglas, or from both.

Here are some sample topics that you might write on (there are many more possibilities):

- 1) Is there a difference between pure and applied science?
- 2) What are some constraints on free inquiry?
- 3) What is the ideal procedure for determining which scientific projects should be funded?
- 4) What is the best procedure *in practice* for determining scientific projects should be funded?
- 5) What is the best way to carefully spell out the claim that science should be value-free?
- 6) Is there a reason to have political decisions made by scientists directly or should scientists merely advise the politicians? Is there a distinction between political and scientific questions in the first place?