Topics for the Freud Essay

Write a two- to three-page response to one of the following:

1. How might Karl Marx respond to *Civilization and Its Discontents*? How might Charles Darwin? Write out one or the other or both responses, explaining as you go along why they would have that reaction. Close the essay by defending which line of argument—Freud’s, Marx’s, or Darwin’s—strikes you as most valid.

2. Locate, in *Civilization and Its Discontents*, Freud’s strangest/weirdest/most bizarre idea and his smartest/deepest/most insightful one. Describe both ideas and your reasons for labeling them as you do. Next, show how Freud makes us connect these two ideas. That is, describe and analyze that line of connection carefully.

3. What makes *Civilization and Its Discontents* seem to be a work written by a life-long atheist? Analyze your understanding of it as such, locating key passages that support your reactions. [You might want to compare his atheism to Marx’s and/or to Darwin’s, recognizing that there is much debate about applying that label to Darwin.]

Remember our two key questions:

1. **How** do you know what you know?
2. **Why** do you feel what you feel?

**DOUBLE-SPACED, TYPED ESSAYS ARE DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4th.**