Topics for the Marx and Engels Essay

Write a three- to four-page response to the following:

After you have read through our selections, locate the passage that surprised you the most. Look for a manageably brief excerpt from Marx and/or Engels that expresses ideas or values at odds with your expectations. That is, before beginning to write this essay you should:

A. Read and re-read the assigned pages.
B. Select from those pages a passage of a page or so that caused you to say something like, “Hmm. That’s not what I thought Marx and Engels were about. In fact, that is a much more [a much less] ‘utopian’ attitude than I would have expected from these guys.” [Note that Engels himself defines “utopian.”] You might want to focus on a passage where they discuss the roles of “science,” noting (if you do so) how their sense of that word differs from ours.

Once armed with this reaction and that passage, you will be ready to write about them both. The main point of this assignment is to analyze your surprise during this encounter with the writings of Karl Marx and/or Friedrich Engels. Don’t lose sight of either your reaction or the author(s) whose words provoked that reaction.

You do not need to present your entire quotation in one big block at the top of your essay. It is a much better idea, especially in such a short essay, to use your own words of analysis to describe the quotation, making sure to clarify which selection you are citing and what page the quotation comes from. Yes, you should quote Marx’s and/or Engels’s language when it helps directly to support your points, but don’t let their language serve in place of your analyses. [“Quotation is not analysis,” my advisor used to tell me again and again.] Also, remember that your goal is to produce an essay that is specific and appropriate. Quotations aptly used are clear indicators of that solid combination of specificity and appropriateness.

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, OCTOBER 14th.**