

Running head: LOCKE'S PROPOSAL

1

Page Number

Running head:
Shortened Title

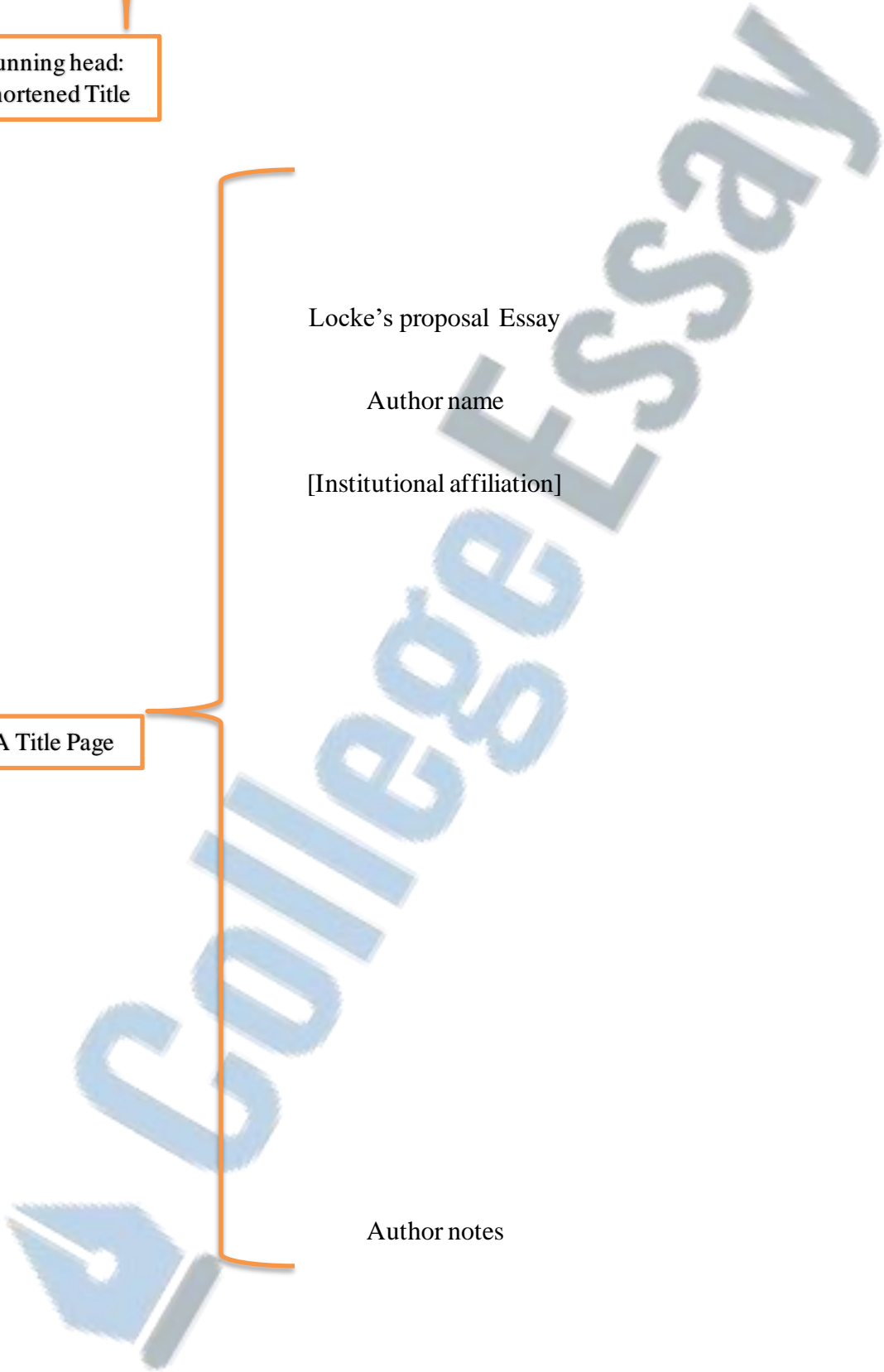
Locke's proposal Essay

Author name

[Institutional affiliation]

APA Title Page

Author notes



LOCKE'S PROPOSAL

Locke's proposal Essay

John Locke was an English philosopher who is considered to be one of the most influential thinkers of the modern era. His major work, *The Second Treatise of Government*, articulated a strong defense of natural rights and a robust theory of government. Locke's ideas would go on to play a pivotal role in the development of liberalism and the Enlightenment. Today, Locke's thought remains highly influential in political philosophy and continues to shape debates on a wide range of issues.

Locke's proposal of a state of nature is a hypothetical, ideal condition in which individuals are free and equal. Locke posits that the state of nature is a utopia where everyone has egalitarianism and perfect liberty. In it, Locke sets out to prove that absolute monarchy is not the only form of government that is legitimate, but that any government which upholds the natural rights of its citizens is legitimate. Defining the state of nature, Locke explains that it is a state where people are free to do as they please and are equal to one another. He then goes on to show how the establishment of government results in the loss of these natural rights. Locke's argument is based on his understanding of natural rights, and he provides a detailed account of how these rights can be violated by the government.

Locke's *Second Treatise of Government* is a work of political philosophy that attempts to justify the Lockean state of nature as an idealized version of society (Locke, 2004). Locke believed that everyone is born with certain inalienable rights, which include the right to life, liberty, and possessions. These natural rights are inherent in every individual and cannot be taken away by any government or authority. Locke believes that it is only when people give up the

LOCKE'S PROPOSAL

natural rights that they can be subject to government authority. In the state of nature, people are purportedly free to exercise their natural rights without interference from others. However, Locke was also of the view that the state of nature is characterized by a "Law of Nature" which provides guidelines for proper behavior. This law is based on reason and is common to all humanity. In addition, Locke argues that the state of nature is not a static condition but rather a dynamic process in which people interact with one another and form societies. He further contends that government is necessary to protect people's rights and preserve social order.

Locke's political theory is based on the idea that people must be free and equal to live together peacefully. Locke believes that it is essential for a government to protect the natural rights and freedoms of its citizens to maintain a prosperous and peaceful society. More importantly, Locke's theory provides a firm foundation for understanding the importance of the individual. His ideas about the mind and personal identity help to explain why the individual is so important, and how each person contributes to society. In addition, Locke's theory provides a strong justification for civil and political rights. These rights are vital to ensuring that individuals can live peacefully and effectively in society. Without these rights, individuals would be at risk of being oppressed or mistreated by those in power. Therefore, Locke's theory is essential in understanding and defending the importance of civil and political rights.

In conclusion, Locke's ideas about freedom and equality were influential in shaping the Founding Fathers' view of government. The Founding Fathers used Locke's ideas to justify the establishment of a government that would protect the fundamental rights of its citizens, as well as ensure that all people were equal before the law. Locke's political theory continues to be relevant today, as it provides a rationale for why the government should protect the natural rights

LOCKE'S PROPOSAL

and freedoms of its citizens. Moreover, Locke's theory provides a foundation for understanding the importance of democracy and human rights.



LOCKE'S PROPOSAL

References

Locke, J. (2004). *Second Treatise of Government*. Barnes & Noble Publishing.

Tuckness, A. (2020). Locke's Political Philosophy. In E. N. Zalta (Ed.), *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Winter 2020). Metaphysics Research Lab, Stanford University. Retrieved from <https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/win2020/entries/locke-political/>



College Essay