Write a short (2-3 paragraph) essay on one of the following topics. If you like you can choose your own topic, so long as you check it with me first.

We’ve been considering two theories of name meaning:

(A) The referential theory.
(B) The Frege/Russell theory (the meaning of a name is a description, and descriptions have the analysis that Russell gave them).

1. Consider the sentence “Santa Claus drinks coffee.” Which of theories (A) and (B) do you think gives a better account of the meaning of this sentence? Explain why. (Or alternatively, explain why neither theory gives a good account.)

2. Choose either theory (A) or theory (B), and give what you think is the single best argument that favors the one over the other.

3. Barack Obama might not have been elected President of the USA. Explain the significance of this fact for the theory of name meaning (consider what Kripke has to say).

4. Consider the sentence “Mark Twain is Samuel Clemens” (“Mark Twain” was a pen name). Which of theories (A) and (B) do you think gives a better account of the meaning of this sentence? Explain why. (Or alternatively, explain why neither theory gives a good account.)