FAPP 9e Writing Projects – Chapter 15

1. Consider a conflict that you, personally, had—with a parent, a boss, a girlfriend or boyfriend, or some other acquaintance—in which each of you had to make a choice without being sure of what the other person would do. What strategies did you seriously consider adopting, and what options do you think the other person considered? What plausible outcomes do you think each set of strategy choices would have led to? How would you rank these outcomes from best to worst, and how do you think the other player would have ranked them? In two to three pages, analyze the resulting game, and state whether you think you and the other person made optimal choices. If not, what interfered with your or the other person's rationality?

2. It is sometimes argued that game theory does not take account of the (irrational?) emotions of people, such as anger, jealousy, or love. What is your opinion about this question? In one to two pages, give an example, real or hypothetical, that supports your position, paying particular attention to whether the players acted consistently with, or contrarily to, their preferences.

3. In tennis, one player often prefers to play from the baseline while her opponent prefers a serve-and-volley game (that is, likes to come to the net). The baseline player attempts to hit passing shots. This player has a choice of hitting "down the line" or "crosscourt." The net player must often correctly guess in which direction the ball will go to cover the shot. In one to two pages, formulate this situation as a duel game and discuss appropriate strategies for the players.

4. Quentin Tarantino's films *Reservoir Dogs* (1992) and *Pulp Fiction* (1994) both have truels, but the choices that the characters make in each are completely different. Does the truel analysis offer any insight into why? Discuss in one to two pages.

5. In one to two paragraphs, discuss the relationship between the status-quo paradox and the chair's paradox (section 10.4).