

# Artifacts Related to the Ella Moreau Case

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## Social Media



**EllaMoreau21**

@EllaMoreau21

Death is not the end of life. It's the beginning of our return to the earth.



**EllaMoreau21**

@EllaMoreau21

Let's be honest—the funeral industry isn't in the business of helping. They put on a show of “compassion” but at the end of the day, they're just another greedy corporation milking death for every last cent  
#DeathCare



**EllaMoreau21** 🌱 🪦

@EllaMoreau21

Why do we pretend “green burials” are a solution when the same corporations cutting down forests are the ones selling them?  
#EcoBurial #Greenwashing



**EllaMoreau21**

@EllaMoreau21

Jessica Mitford saw through the embalmed lies. *The American Way of Death* wasn't just about funerals—it was about refusing to be silenced by profit and performance.

Respect to the one who pulled back the velvet curtain.



**EllaMoreau21**

@EllaMoreau21

One more lecture with this industry hack and I may have to find out if any of those embalming chemicals are as harmful as they say.

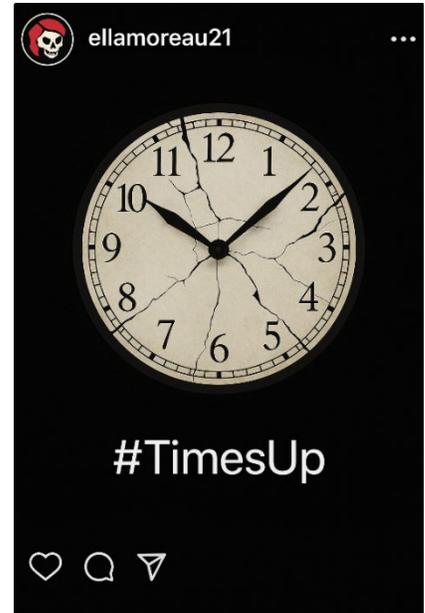
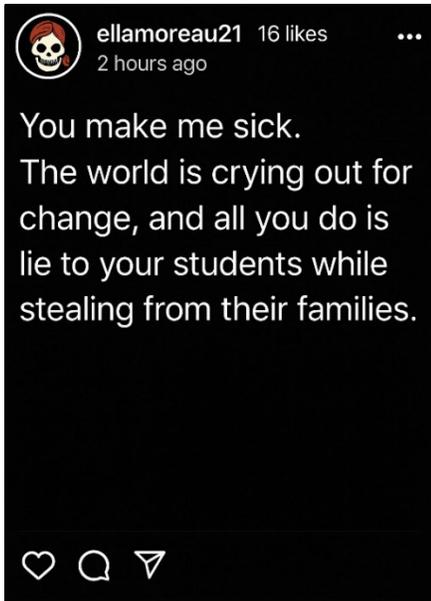


**EllaMoreau21** 🌱 🪦

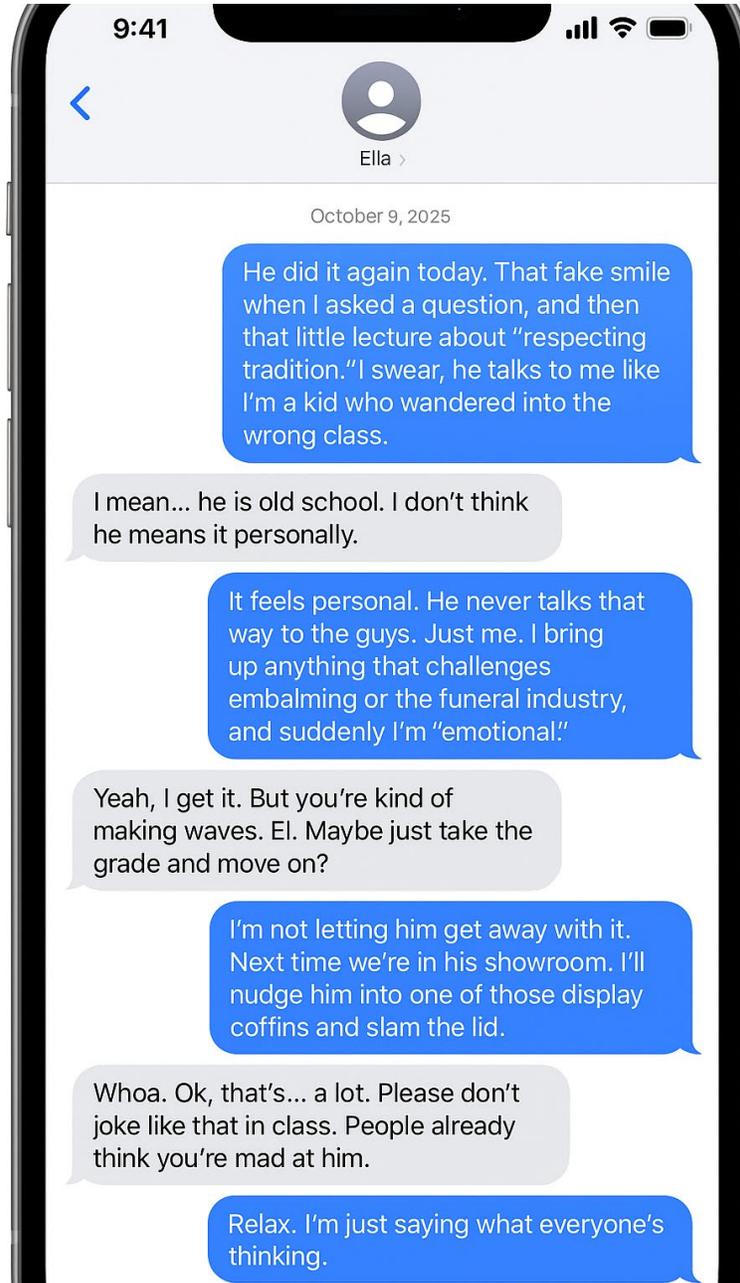
@EllaMoreau21

The funeral industry profits off death while destroying the planet. If he keeps pushing this industry line, maybe he should be buried under the very trees he despises.

#DeathCare #EcoBurial #Corruption



## Texts and Group Chat



*Group chat that includes Ella, Maya, Jordan, Sam, Chloe, and Ryan.*

Ella:

Hey everyone, I'm curious if anyone else feels like Prof. McAllister's class has gone totally off the rails lately?

Ella:

Every discussion turns into his personal political rant. I tried to speak up once and he literally cut me off mid-sentence.

Ella:

I'm thinking of writing to the Dean, but it would help if a few of us said something together so it doesn't look like just

Ella:

I'm all for open dialogue, but this isn't that. It's hostile.

Maya:

I'm all for open dialogue, but this isn't that. It's hostile.

Jordan:

I dunno, I just wanna get through the semester

Ella:

Totally get that, but silence kind of equals agreement. He's crossing lines and no one's holding him accountable.

Ella:

It's like he thinks the classroom is his stage. He's supposed to teach, not lecture us on his opinions about world politics.

Ella:

I keep thinking about how unsafe it would feel for someone who actually disagrees with him to speak up.

Chloe:

I mean... I didn't love last class either. He seemed irritated when people pushed back.

Ella:

Exactly! That's why we need to document this. If a few of us send messages to the Dean, they'll have to take it seriously.

Ella:

I've already written up notes from the last two classes. If anyone wants, I can share them.

Sam:

I'm not sure about getting involved. Feels like it could blow up.

Ella:

I hear that. But honestly, pretending it's fine is what keeps people like him in control.

Ella:

He talks about "academic freedom," but what about our freedom to learn without being preached at?

Maya:

Maybe we should meet first? Talk it through before emailing anyone?

Ella:

I'm fine with that. But I don't want this to fade away like every other time a professor abuses their power.

Ella:

This is bigger than just one class. It's about accountability.

## Class Discussion Board Posts

Mortuary Science 312: Contemporary Issues in Disposition  
Discussion Board | Week 6 – The Role of Tradition

**Posted by:** Ella M.

**Date:** September 22, 2025

I keep hearing people say “respect tradition” like it is a magic spell that excuses everything. Respecting tradition does not mean we stop asking questions. I have seen “tradition” used to justify embalming chemicals that poison soil, price structures that exploit grief, and rituals that center profit instead of people.

I get that some classmates (and professors) work in the funeral industry and feel defensive. But if we cannot talk honestly about what is broken, how are we ever supposed to fix it?

The visit to Whitaker & Sons Funeral Home last week was eye-opening. It is one thing to read about commodification of death, it is another to watch it happen in real time. If that is our “gold standard,” we need a new standard.

And before anyone says I am being “disrespectful,” I am not. I am being honest. The living deserve transparency, and the dead deserve dignity. Pretending everything is fine because it is “tradition” is just keeping us stuck.

Mortuary Science 312: Contemporary Issues in Disposition  
Discussion Board | Week 11 – The Role of the Funeral Home

**Posted by:** Ella M.

**Date:** October 8, 2025

I am honestly tired of being told to tone it down. If questioning power structures in death care makes people uncomfortable, maybe that says more about the system than it does about me.

Every week it feels like we are expected to repeat the same talking points: the honor of the profession, the service to families, the ethical standards of the industry. Meanwhile, nobody wants to talk about how much money is made off human grief. Or how students are discouraged from challenging those who profit from it.

When we visited Whitaker & Sons, I saw more branding than compassion. Maybe that is the reality people do not want to face. Maybe that is why certain faculty members have decided I am too emotional. If calling out hypocrisy is emotional, fine. I will own that. But do not confuse silence with respect.

I am not here to make anyone feel comfortable. I am here to tell the truth, even when it does not make for a pleasant classroom discussion.

## Emails from Ella

From: Ella Moreau  
To: Professor Daniel Whitaker  
Subject: Clarification on grading concerns  
Date: Mon, Sep 15, 2025 at 10:13 AM

Dear Professor Whitaker,

After reviewing your comments on my Week 6 paper, I am left wondering whether the grade reflects my writing or my perspective. You noted "insufficient engagement with industry realities," yet I cited evidence that is inconvenient for the funeral industry to acknowledge.

It would be troubling if students are penalized for advancing arguments that challenge long-standing business interests. My position on greener methods may not align with the practices that define much of the industry, but avoiding them does not make the analysis stronger.

I would appreciate a clear explanation of how my grade was determined. If the issue is truly academic, then I welcome specifics. If it is not, I think that deserves to be said out loud.

Ella Moreau

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From: Ella Moreau  
To: Professor Daniel Whitaker  
Subject: Clarification on grading concerns  
Date: Tue, Sep 16, 2025 at 9:47 AM

Dear Professor Whitaker,

I need to address something from yesterday's class. When I answered your question about regulatory pathways for new disposition methods, you responded by calling my view "a very naïve way to frame it." That wasn't just a critique of the idea, it felt like a put-down of me.

I realize my perspective challenges long-standing practices, but that doesn't make it naïve. It makes it different. There's a big gap between offering constructive pushback and making a student feel diminished. Yesterday, you landed on the wrong side of that line.

I want to be clear: I am here to engage, question, and learn. If my participation is going to be brushed off with condescension, then say so directly. Otherwise, I expect the same respect you'd give to any other professional voice in the room. I'll talk to others if I need to, and don't forget I get to evaluate you as well.

Sincerely,

Ella Moreau  
Mortuary Science, Year 3

## Emails Regarding Ella

From: Daniel Whitake  
To: Margaret Holloway  
Subject: Clarification on grading concerns  
Dear Dean Holloway,

I want to bring to your attention a series of interactions I have had with one of my students, Ella Moreau, in the Mortuary Science program. Over the past week, her communications have shifted in tone and become increasingly aggressive.

Most recently, she emailed me regarding her Week 6 paper grade. While it began with questions about rubric alignment, her follow-up messages have implied bias on my part, expressed impatience when I did not respond quickly enough, and suggested that she would escalate concerns beyond my course. In her last note, she closed by reminding me of her ability to evaluate faculty, which I found troubling given the context.

I do not want to overstate the situation, but the tenor of her messages feels less like academic inquiry and more like a challenge to professional boundaries. I am concerned that this may continue to escalate and could affect both my ability to teach effectively and the classroom environment.

I would appreciate your guidance on next steps. Should I attempt another direct response, or would it be appropriate for you (or another administrator) to intervene at this stage?

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,  
Daniel Whitaker

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From: Daniel Whitaker  
To: Dr. Karen Dupree, Department Chair  
Subject: Student Paper – Example of Concerns  
Date: Mon, Sep 15, 2025

Karen,

See what I mean. This is from Ella Moreau's latest submission. I understand that students bring passion to these topics, but her tone and language are becoming increasingly personal and accusatory. It is making it difficult to evaluate her work objectively.

—Dan

**Attachment: Excerpt from Student Paper**

Ella Moreau  
Mortuary Science 312: Contemporary Issues in Disposition  
Professor Daniel Whitaker  
September 14, 2025

**Composting, Alkaline Hydrolysis, and the Ethics of Disposition**

Traditional burial and embalming practices are presented to the public as dignified, but the industry's own internal language betrays a more commercial reality. "Clients," "services," and "arrangements" are terms borrowed from sales, not sacred care. The result is a transactional experience dressed in black fabric and euphemism. The body becomes a product, purchased preservation rather than a natural return to the earth. For an industry that claims to comfort the grieving, its comfort often depends on maintaining illusions that are neither sustainable nor honest.

I visited one of the funeral homes owned by a faculty member in our program. The visit was supposed to demonstrate "best practices." What I saw was a showroom, rows of metal caskets lined up like cars, price tags discreetly hidden behind brochures. Staff spoke in practiced tones about "closure" while steering families toward higher-cost options. I do not question anyone's personal sincerity, but it was clear that grief is the business model. Even the scent of lilies in the air felt less like mourning and more like masking something decaying beneath.

The future of death care must involve truth rather than theater. Composting and alkaline hydrolysis are not disrespectful; they are honest. They admit what the industry cannot: that death is decomposition, and decomposition is renewal. To continue teaching embalming as an unquestioned good is not neutrality, it is complicity in environmental harm and cultural denial. If some professionals find that uncomfortable, perhaps it is the discomfort of recognizing that the "traditional" methods are less about respect for the dead and more about protecting the living from their own fear.