Philosophy Essay Checklist

Criteria	Yes/No		Quick Remarks
Length: Paper is at least 1000 words. The paper can be longer and depending upon your topic, the paper should be longer. 1000 words is the lower limit.	YES ☐	NO ☐	
Identifying information: author's name, class name, paper title, and word count	YES ☐	NO ☐	
Structural Organization: Paper has section titles that are numbered, e.g. 2. CLARIFYING JAMES'S FORCED OPTION, pages are numbered	YES ☐	NO ☐	
Section 1 (Introduction): states the topic of the essay, states the thesis statement, explains the organization of the paper (e.g. *In the second section, I X, Y, and Z*). The goal of this section is to introduce the central topic of the paper as well as explain how the topic will be addressed throughout the paper. You should avoid giving a long introduction and avoid making grandiose or wide-sweeping claims.	YES ☐	NO ☐	
Section 2 (Clarification): defines key terms, quotes primary text, explains key arguments, gives example to clarify text. The goal of this section should be to explain the key concepts, arguments, terms, or ideas in such a way that a person who has not read the text will completely understand the concepts, arguments, etc.	YES ☐	NO ☐	
Section 3 (Argument): author takes a position on a topic; author gives two reasons (or one high quality reason) in support of the author's position. The goal of this section is to put forward a thesis on the central topic of the paper and to justify this thesis with reasons.	YES ☐	NO ☐	
Section 4 (Conclusion): brief summary of the paper	YES ☐	NO ☐	
Additional quality concerns: uses secondary source to supplement essay (e.g. material from SSS), paper is easy to read, paper avoids repetition, author uses own words rather than repeating material from the text or handouts	YES ☐	NO ☐	

Additional Feedback: *You are not grading your classmate so give critical and constructive feedback. This will help them improve their paper.*