

Philosophy Essay Checklist

Essay due:

Criteria	Yes/No		Quick Remarks
Length: Paper is <i>at least</i> 1000 words. If the topic of your paper requires more than 1000 words, than you should write more than 1000 words. Word count is indicated on paper.	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	
Identifying information: author's name, class name, paper title, and word count	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	
Structural Organization: Numbered section titles, e.g. 2. CLARIFYING JAMES'S PRAGMATISM, pages are numbered, bibliography (Works Cited) at end of paper	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	
Section 1 (Introduction): states the <i>topic</i> of the essay, states the <i>thesis</i> statement, explains the organization of the paper (e.g. <i>In the second section, I will do X, Y, and Z</i>). The goal of this section is to introduce the topic of the paper and explain how the topic will be addressed in the paper. Avoid making grandiose or wide-sweeping claims.	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	
Section 2 (Clarification): provides the necessary information needed to understand the topic of your paper by defining key terms, quoting and explaining at least one passage from the primary text, illustrates the topic with at least one example. The goal of this section is to explain the topic in detail by (i) explicating key concepts and arguments and (ii) contextualizing the topic in such a way that a person who is unfamiliar with philosophy will completely understand the concepts, arguments, etc.	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	
Section 3 (Argument): restates the thesis of your paper and supports this thesis with two (non-subjective) reasons. 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 <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	
Section 4 (Conclusion): brief summary of the paper.	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	
Additional quality concerns: uses secondary source to supplement essay (e.g. material from SSS), paper is easy to read (minimal typos, grammatical issues), paper avoids repetition, author uses own words rather than repeating material from the text or handouts, avoids heavy quotation, etc.	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	

Additional Feedback: *You are not grading your classmate so give critical and constructive feedback. You want to improve their paper, not stroke their ego. Nitpick! This course is not a zero-sum game. Your classmate's A will not make me lower your grade.*