

### Week 3 Thesis Proposal

1. What's the specific area of philosophy that you plan to write about? (E.g., the ethics of self-defense, the nature of personal identity.)
2. Your capstone is your opportunity to enter a philosophical conversation—to consider a question that has interested other philosophers, and to make a new contribution to the conversation about that question. What is the philosophical question that you plan to write about? (Note: make sure what you write is a \*question\*, complete with a question mark.)
3. Tell me what you know about the “philosophical conversation” surrounding your question. What kinds of answers have other philosophers given? Name those philosophers. What other questions are closely related?
4. Briefly explain what you think the answer to your question is, and thus what you suspect the thesis of your capstone will be. What does your “gut” tell you?
5. After you think through the above questions, state your thesis for the paper in one sentence (or two at most). In other words, what claim do you intend to argue for? (Note: this is non-binding)
6. Write an abstract for the paper (200-500 words).
7. Come up with an objection against your thesis (or argument if you already have one). This could be an objection already raised in the philosophical literature. Or, is there a source of ambiguity or vagueness within your thesis (or argument) that you'll have to address? Is this view simply difficult to imagine, given our current conceptual landscape? And so on.