

Week 4 Outline

Construct an outline of your paper. A recommended structure might be:

- I. **Introduction:** State your thesis—what you intend to argue, and a brief 'preview' of what you will do in each of the following sections.
- II. **The Problem of XYZ:** Detailed and Specific Explanation of the topic/problem/issue with examples/illustrations if possible. Indicate exactly why there is a problem of interest or unanswered philosophical questions that need to be resolved. You can make reference to previous works that have addressed the same problem.
- III. **The Premises of Your Argument that support your thesis:** (in other words) what reasons will you offer to the reader to convince them to believe your thesis, and how will you convince them of these reasons, as well?
- IV. **Response to Objections:** Identify 2-3 significant objections that might be (or, ideally, actually *have been*) be raised to the sort of analysis/solutions you offer. Indicate how you intend to respond, in line with your original analysis/solution.

Be sure your outline has an introduction and section divisions with reference to one or more items in your bibliography.

Consider the following questions when you're developing your outline:

- In what order should you explain the various terms and reasons you'll be discussing?
- At what point should you present your opponent's position or argument?
- In what order should you offer your criticisms of your opponent?
- Does any of the points you're making presuppose that you've already discussed some other point?

Give your outline your full attention. It should be fairly detailed. (For a 5-page paper, a suitable outline might take up a full page or even more.)

Note: we will not hold you strictly to the content of this outline. The point is to get you think about the overall structure of your capstone, and have a tentative argument for your thesis.