Mastering the concepts of validity and soundness gives you way to talk about, and criticize, arguments.

Here is one especially important fact: if an argument is sound, then its conclusion must be true. Can you see why?

How do you show that an argument is not sound? Remember: **soundness = validity + true premises.** So to show that an argument is unsound, you can do one of two things: show that it is invalid, or show that it has a false premise.

In our first section of the class, we'll be considering some arguments whose conclusion is 'God exists' and some other arguments whose conclusion is 'God does not exist.' Suppose that you think that God exists. Then it is your job to explain why you think that the arguments whose conclusion is 'God does not exist' are not sound. After all, if they were sound, their conclusion would be true — and you (in this example) think that their conclusion is false.

That is a lot of what your 'My Philosophy' work will be like. You'll be asked to take a stand on whether particular arguments are sound, or not, and will be asked why you think this. Depending on how you answer those questions, you'll be asked follow up questions which challenge your views.

You will always have the chance to go back and change your answers to questions as your beliefs evolve over the course of the semester. In fact, it would be surprising if your beliefs did **not** change in this way!

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