

PHIL1010 Paper assignment #2

This assignment should take roughly 3–4 pages. I strongly recommend use of plain and simple language—the issues can become subtle and complicated, and highfalutin language can make things even more unclear. Format it as follows: double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, normal 1" page margins, stapled.

Organization is very important. Your paper should have five sections.

3 and 4 are
the most
important
sections—
focus on
them

1. Introduce your paper. Briefly explain what you are going to do in the paper, and *explicitly state what your thesis is (without being wishy-washy)*.
2. Give a brief and clear explanation of the particular argument or position you are concerned with.
3. **Lay out an objection people have made to the argument or position.**
4. **Either try to show that this objection fails, or try to show that possible responses to the objection fail.**
5. Briefly summarize what you've done with your paper; again, *explicitly state what thesis you have defended (without being wishy-washy)*.

I'd like you to choose either *an argument for dualism, the Euthyphro dilemma, or a version of moral relativism*. As before, it's up to you which topic to write on. Here is how to handle these topics:

Dualism:

- Focus on a specific argument for dualism.
- Then present an existing objection to that argument.
- Then try to show whether that objection succeeds or not.

Euthyphro dilemma:

- Explain the Euthyphro dilemma.
- Then present a possible solution to the dilemma.
- Then try to show whether that solution succeeds or not.

Moral relativism:

- Focus on a specific version of moral relativism.
- Then present an existing objection to that version.
- Then try to show whether that objection succeeds or not.

You do not need to use the specific readings I've given you, but if not you should try to find some existing discussion to refer to, make use of, and (of course) cite.

Finally, be sure that you're not simply rehashing the material already covered in class. Try to come up with a point that's new—or at least a point that hasn't *explicitly* been spelled out in the lectures or readings. Of course, nobody is expecting pure amazing innovation. But try to advance the discussion at least a small step beyond the lectures and readings. After all, this isn't just a writing assignment, it's also a philosophy assignment.

Due Saturday, 14 Dec.