**Writing Assignment 3**

* *Among the hardest parts of writing an introductory philosophy paper are making your argumentative structure explicit and developing a critical argument of your own. For this assignment, you will practice these skills for your final paper.*
* *There is a grading rubric posted;* ***append a copy of the grading rubric to the document you submit your assignment****. Now would also be a good time to review the rubric and writing resources, as you are now being evaluated on argumentation in philosophical writing, which involves applying discipline-specific norms.*

**Part One: Outline of Final Paper**

**Your task is to outline your final paper.** Your outline must include the below elements. *I will grade not on content, but on the completion of all required parts.* Think of this as a writing exercise for organizing your final paper. While you are encouraged to be as detailed as possible for the purposes of this assignment, you are by no means required to stick to this outline in your final paper in case you would like to add or change things. Also, you are welcome and encouraged to bring in early drafts of your outline to office hours, if you’d like additional feedback from me.

***“****Before you begin writing any drafts, you need to think about the questions: In what order should you explain the various terms and positions 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? Do any of the points you're making presuppose that you've already discussed some other point, first? And so on. The overall clarity of your paper will greatly depend on its structure. That is why it is important to think about these questions before you begin to write. I strongly recommend that you make an outline of your paper, and of the arguments you'll be presenting, before you begin to write. This lets you organize the points you want to make in your paper and get a sense for how they are going to fit together. It also helps ensure that you're in a position to say what your main argument or criticism is, before you sit down to write a full draft of your paper. When students get stuck writing, it's often because they haven't yet figured out what they're trying to say. 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.) I find that making an outline is at least 80% of the work of writing a good philosophy paper. If you have a good outline, the rest of the writing process will go much more smoothly.” <*[*http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/guidelines/writing.html*](http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/guidelines/writing.html)*>*

1. Introduction
   1. Give your thesis statement.
   2. *Is your thesis a strong and simple statement of your core argument’s conclusion?*
2. Exegetical argument
   1. Outline the philosopher’s argument in premise-conclusion form.
   2. *Are you being as charitable as possible?*
3. Your Core Argument
   1. Outline your argument in premise-conclusion form.
   2. *Does the argument engage with a premise in the argument from the previous section?*
4. Possible Objection
   1. Outline the objection in premise-conclusion form.
   2. *Does the argument engage with a premise in the argument from the previous section?*
   3. *Is the argument strong (or a straw-man)?*
5. Your Response
   1. Outline the objection in premise-conclusion form.
   2. *Does the argument engage with a premise in the argument from the previous section?*
   3. *Does the argument avoid foot-stomping? That is, is your response a new argument, or does it merely repeat material from your core argument?*
6. Conclusion
   1. Recapitulate your thesis and argumentative structure.
   2. Why does your argument matter? Consider upshots and implications of your argument. For example, you might consider how your thesis contributes to a larger debate.

*The italicized are questions to consider when designing your outline, not questions to be responded to directly.*

**Part Two: Short Paper on Utilitarianism in International Ethics**

**Your task is to write a short paper (5 paragraphs).** This involves giving an overview of the debate and making a critical argument of your own. I have very specific guidelines by way of content and formatting.

1. *Your first paragraph is your* ***introduction*** *(apx. 4-8 sentences). This should include:*
   * Context of your paper
     + Put your paper into the appropriate context for the reader. Explain:
       1. Utilitarian ethical theory, which Singer and Hardin both use
       2. The area of moral concern, i.e. the realm of international ethics
       3. Why the dispute between Singer and Hardin matters; the “stakes” of the dispute.
   * Thesis statement (1 sentence only)
     + Your paper will compare and contrast the two articles and argue that either Singer or Hardin has the best approach to international ethics
     + “In this paper, I will argue that Singer/Hardin has the better approach to international ethics on the grounds that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”
2. *Your second paragraph is* ***exegesis of Singer’s argument*** *(apx. 5-9 sentences)*
   * Make the argumentative structure explicit. The idea is to make the structure of your explanation reflect the structure of the argument. For this reason, I strongly recommend, as an outlining technique, reconstructing your argument in a simple premise-conclusion form, though your actual paper must be in prose.
   * Sufficiently explain and defend each of the philosopher’s premises. Think of each premise as a conclusion in need of argument and provide supporting reasons from the text, e.g. though experiments, for justification. Examples can be helpful.
   * Remember EVERY descriptive claim about the text must be cited!
3. *Your third paragraph is* ***exegesis of Hardin’s argument*** *(apx. 5-9 sentences)*
   * The same advice about exegesis as above applies to this paragraph.
   * You may put your Hardin exegesis before Singer exegesis, if you wish; your second and third paragraphs are interchangeable.
4. *Your fourth paragraph is* ***your critical argument*** *(apx. 5-9 sentences)*

* Singer and Hardin are both utilitarians and therefore accept the same theoretical rationale for what affluent people should do within the realm of international ethics. However, as a matter of practical guidance, they give us contradictory utilitarian answers. Your task is to make an argument that one philosopher’s approach is better, so your argument should criticize the way one of the philosophers makes use of utilitarian ethical theory in the realm of international ethics. Remember, in order to engage, your argument should criticize a premise from one of the philosophers. Be very precise indicating exactly (a) where the two philosophers disagree and (b) how your argument engages with one of their views. Do *not* merely regurgitate one of the philosopher’s views without adding a new argument of your own.
  + Just like in the exegetical sections, make your argumentative structure explicit. The idea is to make the structure of your explanation reflect the structure of the argument. For this reason, I strongly recommend, as an outlining technique, that you reconstruct your argument in a clear, simple premise-conclusion form, though your actual paper must be in prose.

1. *Your fifth paragraph is* ***your conclusion*** *(apx. 4-8 sentences)*
   * The main purpose your concluding paragraph is to recapitulate your argumentative structure, that is, recapitulate your thesis and how you sustained your thesis.
   * Also, consider broader implications of your argument.
   * This handout may help: <http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/conclusions/>

**Guidelines: The paper must be between two and three pages, double spaced, with standard pagination and font size.**

* Use a standard citation method (e.g., MLA, APA or Chicago).
* For your exegesis, explain the arguments as completely and precisely as you can, in your own words; you should avoid repeating either the author’s own words, or the words used in lecture to describe the author’s argument.
* Seek instead to describe as clearly as possible the conclusion the author defends, and what steps are required in the author’s argument for that conclusion. Simply put, **make the argumentative structure explicit!**
* If you have trouble developing your argument, I would highly recommend reviewing the Woodhouse and Pryor (posted on the course website). Also, writing center tutors can help your develop your argument.
* You will be assessed according to the criteria on the writing assignments grading rubric. Think strategically about your learning (and about your grade) by trying to evaluate yourself by the grading standards before turning in the paper.