

How to write a philosophy paper

1) Basic structure:

Introduction: no more than one paragraph.

First section: give the best explanation of the theory/argument you will object to.

Second section: explain your objection. Clearly state the premise(s) you'll reject. If you explained the justification for the premise you choose in the first section, there is no need to explain it here again.

Conclusion: Clearly state the main points you made on the second section. No more than one paragraph.

2) Example:

(Introduction)

According to *Cartesian Dualism/Materialism*, (brief exposition of the main thesis of the theory: no more than two lines). One of the arguments in favor/against this theory is called *Zombie Argument/Anti-Dualism Zombie Argument*. In this paper I will reject/endorse the first/second/third/... premise of the argument, according to which (state the premise).

(First section)

The argument in favor/against is as follows: (state the argument)

Continue this section by giving the best explanation of the argument:

1) justification for each of the premises

2) Explain how the premises support the conclusion

(Second section)

I think that the justification for premise (write the number of the premise or briefly state the premise) is not convincing/not good/incorrect.

Continue this section by giving your reasons to disagree with the premise.

(Conclusion)

In this paper I argued that premise (number of the premise or *according to which* brief statement of the premise) is not convincing/not good/incorrect. The reason I presented to support my claim was (brief explanation of your objection).

--//--

- You don't have to follow the example I proposed. This is supposed to be a guide for those of you who are completely lost.
- I highly recommend that you follow part 1. Introduction, first section, second section and conclusion are the essential parts of ANY good philosophy paper.

Let me know if you have any questions!