

Assignment Title:

Argument Reconstruction (20 points)

Objective:

To enhance students' critical thinking, argument analysis, and presentation skills by requiring them to reconstruct and analyze an argument from a chosen course reading.

Instructions:

1. **Choose a Reading:** Select one of the assigned readings from the course schedule that you find particularly interesting or compelling (you will sign up on the first day).
2. **Reconstruct the Argument:** Carefully analyze the chosen reading and identify the author's main argument. Reconstruct the argument in a clear and organized format, ensuring that you accurately represent the author's premises and conclusion.
3. **Analyze the Argument:** Evaluate the reconstructed argument for its plausibility, and attempt to identify any potential weaknesses, fallacies, or areas where the argument could be improved.
4. **Develop a Presentation:** Prepare a 15-20 minute presentation that includes:
 - A brief overview of the chosen reading and its context within the course.
 - A clear presentation of your argument reconstruction.
 - A critical analysis of the argument's strengths and weaknesses.
 - Your own perspective on the argument's persuasiveness and implications.
5. **Deliver the Presentation:** Deliver your presentation to the class in a clear, concise, and engaging manner. Be prepared to answer questions and engage in discussions with your peers and the instructor.

Grading Rubric:

- Accuracy of argument reconstruction (5 pts)
- Depth of critical analysis (5 pts)
- Clarity and organization of presentation (5 pts)
- Effective communication and engagement (5 pts)

Additional Notes:

- If you have taken PHIL1210 or PHIL2010, then please feel free to reconstruct the author's argument in standard premise-conclusion form. If you have not taken either course, then do your best to isolate the core claim that you take the author to be arguing for, and what evidence they offer in support of that core claim.
- Public speaking can be nerve racking, so please try to reassure yourself that we are all here trying to learn the material. We want one another to succeed.
- If something is terribly confusing in the reading, that is an excellent starting point for your presentation. If you ultimately cannot make heads or tails of your reading, then that is an excellent reason to come chat with me during office hours 😊.