



Marcello Di Bello

Lehman College CUNY

PHI 169 - Spring 2015

The Final Paper

Parts of a Paper

1. Introduction
2. Body
3. Conclusion

Structure

- ❖ The different parts of the paper should “hang together”
- ❖ The paper cannot just be a juxtaposition of different opinions, ideas, insights without any relation one to the other
- ❖ The paper should be a “coherent whole”

What the Introduction Contains

It depends on what you want to do in the paper, but typically, a good introduction contains:

- A. Invitation into the topic
- B. Definitions of the main concepts and ideas
- C. Plan for what is to come in the rest of the paper

Next, the Body of the Paper

What the Body of the Paper Does

1. Focus on one or a few specific questions and lay out the space of possible answers
2. If you are taking a stance, carefully defend a specific thesis, consider possible objections and respond to the objections
3. If you are not taking a strong stance, lay out arguments for and against a certain position and carefully scrutinize those arguments

What the Conclusion Does

1. Summary of the main results of the paper
2. Open questions for future research

How to Write a Paper

- Write the body of the paper first
- Write the introduction and the conclusion last
- Write a first draft and then revise it several times until it is perfect

Grading Criteria

- **A range** — The paper does everything the paper is supposed to do (*see previous slides*). The paper is written in clear and elegant English. The paper shows subtlety, depth and precision in the analysis and scrutiny of the arguments.
- **B range** — The paper does everything the paper is supposed to do (*see previous slides*). The paper is at times unclear. The paper shows subtlety, depth and precision in the analysis and scrutiny of the arguments, although at times the analysis of certain arguments is superficial and cursory.
- **C range** — The paper does everything the paper is supposed to do (*see previous slides*). The paper is at times unclear. The paper shows limited subtlety, depth and precision in the analysis and scrutiny of the arguments.

Final Paper is Due May 18th by
Midnight *Via Email*

No Late Papers Will be Accepted
