

PHI 171 – PROBLEMS OF PHILOSOPHY – FALL 2014

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ASSIGNMENT #3 – DUE DECEMBER 17TH

This assignment consists in writing a **5-7 philosophy page paper** on a topic that interests you. You should develop the ideas from your “paper outline” on the basis of my comments.

What should a philosophy paper do? Typically, a philosophy paper advances a certain thesis and attempts to defend the thesis with well-supported arguments.

What is a good philosophy paper? A good philosophy papers proceeds with rigor, clarity, precision, and originality. Rigorous argumentation, clarity of exposition, precision of language, and originality of ideas are essential ingredients for a good philosophy paper. You will be graded on the basis of those four criteria.

How should a philosophy paper be written and structured? A philosophy paper should be your own literary creation, so you can give to it the literary form and shape you prefer. Be an inspired and creative writer! Still, if you are at a loss about what to do and how to write a philosophy paper, here is a suggestion. A philosophy paper might consist of four parts: an introduction which sets up the question of the paper and formulates the thesis; a body of the paper which develops the main argument; a discussions of possible objections to your main argument, along with possible replies in defense of your main argument; a conclusion which formulates the open questions and identifies the weak points in your argument.

Be intellectually honest! In a philosophy paper, it is completely fine to recognize that your argument has weaknesses. It is better to openly acknowledge weaknesses in your argument rather than be silent about them.

For more guidance on how to write a philosophy paper, check out the link below

<http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/guidelines/writing.html>