

Long Essay 1

Long Essay 1

Prompt

In the *Phaedo*, Socrates makes the following claim:

“the one aim of those who practice philosophy in the proper manner is to practice for dying and death” (64a3-4)

In this paper, you will be examining Socrates’ views on death. The paper has two parts:

1. Why does Socrates believe that practicing philosophy is practicing for death? In answering this question, you must identify Socrates’ views on the entities that philosophers must study and why he thinks that dying is conducive to that study. Do you think that Socrates is right that we cannot study these entities in this life? Why? Why not?
2. Socrates offers three arguments for our immortality from 69e-84b. (Ignore the fourth argument that comes later in the dialog.) Pick **one** of these arguments and explain it in detail. What is the weakest premise of this argument? Why? How might Socrates respond?

Further Instruction

- Focus only on 57a-84b.
- Read at least one of the articles listed below. Read more if you would find it useful.
- This is a research essay. It must include proper citations and bibliography.
- Write 1250-1500 words. No more. No less.
- Submit your responses by Mon. 2/29/2016 @ 1pm.
- I will check these submissions for plagiarism. If you use material, whether explicitly or implicitly, from any source, you must cite it.

Further Resources

- [Entry in the *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*](#)
- [From the *Phaedo* to the *Republic*, Iakovos Vasiliou](#), ch.1 of ‘Plato and the Divided Self’
- [Philosophers and Death: Two Contrasting Arguments in Plato’s *Phaedo*](#), F.C. White
- [Degrees of Separation in the “Phaedo”](#), Michael Pakaluk