



**STUDYDADDY**

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The assignment is to produce a **four-five page** philosophical essay, including bibliography, according to the following guidelines.

The paper will be due **via Canvas by Friday, February 18.**

**For every 24 hours the paper is late, 5 points will be deducted from the grade. There is no penalty for early submissions.**

### Instructions

For this paper assignment, students will select one of the arguments below and show why this argument is not sound. Students must use at least assigned readings to inform their discussion. Students may also use additional sources (in the form of books and published journal articles only), but this is optional. Sources should be cited using author name, publication date, and page numbers within the text, for example (Lewis 2016, pp. 30-35). The paper should also include a formal bibliography. Philosophers are flexible about which bibliographic conventions. You may follow MLA or APA guidelines, or use the bibliographic convention you find in any published philosophical book or article.

Formatting: Double-spaced, 12 point font, Times New Roman

File type: Must be submitted as a .doc or .docx file only.

This is an upper-division philosophy class and so we are expecting students already know the basics of writing a good philosophy paper. However, as a reminder: papers must include the following:

- A clear thesis that you defend throughout the paper. This thesis must be stated explicitly within the first page of the paper. Don't get off track or digress. Your goal in this paper is to clearly and convincingly defend your thesis.
- Section headings and page numbers
- A clear introduction summarizing what you will do in this paper that clearly states your thesis
- A section providing a reader with the background needed to understand the discussion, i.e. the main views and arguments you will be discussing. This should occur within the first two pages and be clearly separated from the section in which you begin stating the argument. Be mindful of your target audience: this will be a reasonably intelligent person who is not familiar with this debate. For this reason, you should be careful to define any technical terms you use, e.g. 'mereological atom' or 'nominalism.' (It may help to imagine your audience to be a roommate or sibling who has never taken a philosophy course.)
- A clear statement of the central argument you are criticizing in this paper. The argument should be stated in numbered premise form and the argument should be charitably explained before the criticism begins. It is important, before you

critique an author's views, to charitably present them in the clearest terms possible.

- A clear account of why, in your view, this argument is not sound. Do not simply state what is wrong with the argument, but defend your view. Give an argument. Examples may help.
- A conclusion clearly summarizing your results, and where we are left on the debate that was up for discussion. It may be that you agree with the conclusion of the argument; you just deny that it is a good way to argue for that conclusion. If so, say so.
- A complete formal bibliography written in a consistent style. It is ok to only have one or two sources. But you must cite all sources you use and list these sources in the bibliography.

**Important: the university has a clear plagiarism policy that students are required to adhere to. All suspected cases of plagiarism will be investigated and if plagiarism is found, the student will fail the course.**

### Choice of Paper Topics

- Quine's "no entity without identity" argument against nonexistent entities
- The One Over Many
- The argument using the Statue and the Clay to Wiggins's two object view
- Van Inwagen's argument against mereological nihilism from the Cartesian premise
- Sider's argument from vagueness against moderate answers to the Special Composition Question

### Grading

Papers will be assessed on the basis of five criteria. It is recommended that students use this grading rubric as a guide to help improve their papers. Doublecheck that all requirements are met before final submission.

Clarity 30%

Have you clearly expressed the view and arguments you present? Have you clearly defined all terms and concepts? Do you illustrate difficult points using good examples? Is every sentence in your paper grammatically correct?

Comprehensiveness 20%

Have you met all of the requirements of the assignment? Have you presented all of the positions and concepts you need to present in order to state your argument accurately? Have you applied the principle of charity in order to present other authors' positions accurately? Have you cited your

sources using dates and page numbers? Does the paper contain a complete and consistent bibliography?

Rigor 20%

Do you offer supporting arguments for the claims you make rather than merely stating your conclusion? Do you defend your own points in a clear way?

Organization 20%

Is your paper clearly structured and organized? Is it always evident to a reader what you are doing in each section? Is it clear how every sentence in your paper fits into and helps your larger goal?

Originality 10%

Have you thought about a good way to present the debate to your audience? Have you presented an original and carefully-thought-out position on the argument, as opposed to merely rehashing ideas from the lectures and discussion?



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