

Instructions: Write a 5-7 page paper in response to one of the questions (1) – (5).
You must give a draft of your paper to a classmate for peer editing by 11/8.
You and your peer editor must exchange written comments on your drafts by 11/10.
You must turn in your final draft, along with your first draft and your peer editor's comments, on 11/13, in class.

GUIDELINES FOR PAPER WRITING (and checklist for peer editors):

- (1) Your paper should be 5-7 pages long, double-spaced, in 12-point font, with a 1-inch margin.
- (2) Use your first paragraph to state, briefly, what you will be arguing in the paper (your thesis). Do not just restate the question here; indicate what your answer(s) will be.
- (3) Make sure that your paper answers all the parts of the question.
- (4) When you report another person's views, make sure you are stating their views accurately. When you give your own view, make sure you support it with reasons (as you are directed to do in the questions above.)
- (5) Give references to any readings by citing the author, title, and page number(s). If you use any outside sources, cite them too by author, title, page number, and location. (Failure to cite your sources will be taken as evidence of plagiarism; the penalty for plagiarism is automatic failure in the course and possible expulsion from the university.)
- (6) Give yourself a little time away from the paper and re-read it to make sure that you are expressing yourself clearly, that you haven't left anything out, that your conclusions follow from your premises and are supported by the texts on which they're based, that your grammar and spelling and punctuation follow the standard conventions, etc.
- (7) You should also be aware of the U of A Writing Skills Improvement Program:

<http://wsip.web.arizona.edu/>

The program runs General Education writing workshops. Minority students and students on financial aid may also go to the program office at 1201 E. Helen St. (phone numbers: 621-5849 or 621-5848) to register for individual tutoring; other students may be referred by an instructor to the program office for individual tutoring (so if you're interested, let one of us know).

CHECKLIST FOR PEER REVIEW OF WRITING ASSIGNMENT DRAFTS

- (1) What is the paper topic? Does the paper answer ALL the questions asked in the paper topic?
- (2) Does the first paragraph clearly state a thesis and a plan?
- (3) Does the paper follow the plan stated in the first paragraph? Does it succeed in showing that its thesis is correct?
- (4) Does *each* paragraph of the paper have clear points and aims? Are there clear connecting sentences between paragraphs?
- (5) Does the paper have a conclusion that incorporates the discussions in the paper?
- (6) Does the paper provide proper textual evidence for the views it attributes to authors, e.g. 'Mill argues that happiness is the only good (Utilitarianism, Ch. 4)'?
- (7) Does the author provide clear and convincing support for any arguments of his or her own?
- (8) Give at least one substantial objection to the paper overall. What is the paper's greatest weakness?
- (9) Say how you think this weakness could be fixed.
- (10) Has the paper been proofread for spelling and grammatical errors?

Additional comments/suggestions for improvement:

Useful links on writing a philosophy paper:

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

<http://www.sfu.ca/philosophy/writing.htm>

<http://www.mit.edu/~yablo/writing.html>

Useful links on reading a philosophy paper:

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

<http://theaetetus.tamu.edu/phil-111/howread.htm>