

Philosophy 110
Spring 2019

Essay 2 Assignment

Essay 2 is a 5-7 page (typed and double-spaced) argumentative essay. It is due by 11:59 pm on Sunday, 5/5/19. In this essay, you are taking the same position that you argued for in Essay 1 and defending it against the strongest criticisms made against it.

Find at least 3 sources that contain what appear to be the strongest and most prevalent arguments against your position from Essay 1. Explain the arguments in a fair manner, so that even the people who made the arguments would agree with your account. Then, analyze the reasoning of the arguments in a manner that demonstrates why they are ultimately unpersuasive.

The arguments that you select to critique can be from books, magazines, journals, newspapers, or websites.

Please note that you are not changing your own position from your first essay. In Essay 1, you argued in favor of a certain position, and in Essay 2, you are still arguing for that same position, this time by defending that position against the strongest criticisms that others have made about it.

General Essay Guidelines

Each essay needs an *introductory paragraph*. This paragraph briefly introduces your subject to the reader, and it ends with your *thesis statement*. The thesis is the point that you are trying to get across with your essay. The entire essay can be seen, in a sense, as support for your thesis; anything in the essay that does not help support your thesis is not relevant and should not be included in your essay. Also, the essay should end with a *conclusion* paragraph that reiterates your thesis, and summarizes what you've said in your paper to support your thesis. The conclusion paragraph should contain no new points.

Use your own words. When using research, quotes should be sparingly used. They are appropriate to accentuate a particular point, particularly if a writer's words are themselves unique or particularly well-constructed, and they can be necessary as textual evidence to support your account. But do not rely on quotes to do the work of summarizing and explaining.

Remember that your essay is a composition. Pay attention to the presentation of points. Be sure that each paragraph logically follows from what precedes it. (And be sure that each paragraph has one clearly identifiable topic.) The essay should read like one organic whole, not like a series of parts.

Be careful not to assume unreasonable prior knowledge on the part of the reader of your essay.

All sources must be identified by a works cited page, and each time you refer to a source or rely upon ideas from a source, you must cite that use, including specific page numbers if applicable, in the text of the essay where you are using that source. If you use an outside source and do not do these two things, the paper will either not be counted as credit for the assignment, or it will receive a low grade. Furthermore, the paper may be seen as an example of plagiarism – using someone else’s work and passing it off as your own – and will receive a “0” and may result in further disciplinary actions. (You may use whatever style of citation you wish; the point is that you always give credit to your sources and that you give the reader the information necessary to review your sources should she or he desire to do so.)

Always remember to use sufficient detail in explaining points. Do not raise a point that needs explanation or discussion without subsequently explaining/discussing it.

Within philosophy, the first-person voice is commonly used, so you may use the first-person voice in this essay if you wish.

Pay attention to grammar and spelling at all times.