

The Critical Writing Assignment 1

Due at the end of Module Three.

For this assignment, please make sure to analyze and discuss one (and only one!) of the following two classical arguments for the existence of God:

1. St. Anselm's Ontological Argument
2. Clarke's Cosmological Argument

You may argue either for or against the soundness of the argument, but you must take up and defend a specific position.

Make sure to submit the Critical Writing Assignment 1 no later than Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT. (This Dropbox basket is linked to Turnitin.)

PHI 110RS Critical Writing Assignment Guidelines & Rubric

There will be two (2) critical writing assignments. Topics for each writing assignment are in Module 3 (Assignment 1) and Module 6 (Assignment 2).

Some generic requirements to be observed for all Writing Assignments include that all papers must:

- Defend a thesis and should proceed according to the following format: Thesis, Argument, Objection(s), Response(s), Conclusion
- Include citations to the primary required class readings. These and any additional sources must be properly cited using MLA format.
- Fall within the following length requirements: 1200-1500 words.
- Use a standard 10-12 pt. font and be double spaced.

Critical Writing Assignments 1 and 2 are **due no later than Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT of Modules 3 and 6** respectively. (These Dropbox baskets are linked to Turnitin.)

Information on MLA Citation style can be found here: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

SEE RUBRIC ON NEXT PAGE

Elements	Criteria					Score
	<i>Not Attempted</i> (Criterion is missing or not in evidence)	<i>Novice</i> (does not meet expectations; performance is substandard)	<i>Basic</i> (works towards meeting expectations; performance needs improvement)	<i>Proficient</i> (meets expectations; performance is satisfactory)	<i>Exemplary</i> (exceeds expectations; performance is outstanding)	
	0-11.99%	12-13.99%	14-15.99%	16-17.99%	18-20%	
Paper Topic 16.66%	Paper contains no thesis and/or does not address the essay prompt.	Thesis is difficult to discern and/or fails to address multiple parts of the essay prompt.	Thesis is discernible, but not explicitly stated in introductory paragraph and/or addresses most, but not all, of parts of the essay prompt.	Thesis statement is present in introductory paragraph, but it is wordy, generic or unclear and/or paper addresses all parts of the essay prompt, but not adequately.	Thesis statement is present in introductory paragraph. It is concise, articulate, and narrowly focused. Paper adequately addresses all parts of the essay prompt.	___/20
Length Requirements 16.66%	There was little or no evidence of a complete assignment.	Paper is entirely too short.	Paper contains a great deal of "fluff" and still doesn't meet the length requirements	Paper is on the short side or meets requirements only because it contains "fluff."	Paper falls within the required length requirements without going off topic.	___/20
Mechanics of Writing 16.66%	Little to no evidence of proper writing mechanics.	The grammar of the paper greatly impedes understanding of content. Organizational structure is unclear.	Paper needs a good deal of improvement with respect to grammar, spelling, and/or style. Organization and/or flow of ideas need improvement.	Paper is mostly free of errors with respect to grammar, spelling, and/or style, but needs some improvement. Organizational structure is adequate.	Paper is nearly perfect with respect to grammar, spelling, and style. Organizational structure is clear and the paper flows nicely.	___/20
Conceptual Analysis & Thoughtful Engagement 16.66%	Paper exhibits a complete lack of thoughtful engagement with the text. Concepts are identified, but not clearly defined. No attempt to elaborate/exemplify.	Paper exhibits very little thoughtful engagement with the text. Few concepts are clearly defined using elaboration/exemplification.	Paper exhibits basic engagement with text, but needs improvement. Some concepts are clearly defined using elaboration/exemplification,	Paper exhibits thoughtful understanding of the text, but some improvement needed. Most concepts are clearly defined using elaboration/exemplification.	Paper does an excellent job demonstrating an accurate understanding of the text and goes beyond mere summary. All relevant concepts are clearly defined using elaboration/exemplification.	___/20
Points of View/ Consideration of Objections 16.66%	Paper does not acknowledge the existence of alternative points of view. Does not state objections to thesis.	Acknowledges existence of more than point of view, but does not clear articulate a specific objection and respond.	Acknowledges existence of more than point of view, but considers only one. States a specific objection to thesis, but makes no clear attempt to respond.	Acknowledges existence of more than point of view. States at least one objection to thesis and responds, but needs some improvement.	Acknowledges existence of more than point of view. Clearly and articulately states at least one objection to thesis and then adequately responds to the objection.	___/20
MLA Style/Citations 16.66%	Paper lacks both in-text citations and a proper works cited list.	Paper lacks either in-text citations or a proper works cited list, but not both.	Paper contains in-text citations and a works cited list, but does not follow MLA style.	Paper contains in-text citations and a works cited list, but several stylistic errors are present.	Paper contains proper in-text citations and a works cited list. Few stylistic errors are present.	___/20

TOTAL: ___ / 120