

Rubric

	Philosophical Content				Mechanics	
	Faithfulness	Clarity	Rigor	Originality	Structure	Citations
Exemplary (A)	Arguments and views relevant to the prompt are rehearsed fairly, accurately, and in sufficient detail; arguments and views are not dismissed without careful consideration.	Clear, specific, and informative thesis; prose is clear and easy to follow throughout; philosophical terms are appropriately introduced and defined or illustrated by example; each sentence says exactly what the author means it	Important claims are defended with strong, developed arguments; there are clear premises that build on each other to establish the stated thesis; strong objections are anticipated and replied to.	Does not merely rehearse views or arguments presented in lecture or readings; offers a new argument or view with strong, original examples.	Paper is very well-organized and individual paragraphs are well-structured; there is only one point per sentence, and only one argument or "big idea" per paragraph; good use of transitions between paragraphs; arguments build upon themselves in a cohesive and easy-to-follow way to arrive ultimately at the	Quotes and paraphrases are properly cited; a complete "Works Cited" appears at the end of the paper.
Competent (B)	Relevant views and arguments are rehearsed fairly, but in insufficient detail; rehearsal may contain errors or unnecessary or irrelevant details.	Thesis could be clearer or more specific; Some technical terms are used without any attempt to clarify what they mean; it is unclear what some sentences are intended to say.	Some important claims are asserted without argument; some premises are undersupported or missing; possible objections/replies are weak, obvious, or irrelevant.	May not offer a new argument or view, but clarifies or strengthens an argument from the readings or lectures with original examples.	Paper is broadly well-structured but there are some issues, e.g.– occasional problems with paragraph unity; some transitions unclear; parts of the argument "out of order", paragraphs try to do too much or feel unconnected to adjacent ones	Some direct quotes and (especially) paraphrases are not properly cited; the "Works Cited" section may be incomplete or missing altogether.
Needs Work (C)	Relevant views or are sketched in very superficial terms; are grossly misrepresented or dismissed without argument. Paper may not address the prompt.	No identifiable thesis; Much of the paper is unclear; little to no attempt is made to clarify technical terms either by definition or example.	The paper contains mostly assertions with little or no argument; given arguments do not support or even contradict thesis; no possible objections are considered.	Merely rehearses arguments from lecture or from the readings; does not offer any new argument, view, or objection.	Overall paper structure is unclear and hard to follow; significant issues with paragraph organization and unity; there is no clear logical path to the thesis/conclusion.	Very serious citation issues; most if not all direct quotes and paraphrases are not properly cited; some phrasing may be taken directly from an uncited source.