

Analysis Papers

This assignment will require you to (1) analyze an argument as presented in an assigned text, and (2) make an argument of your own for why this passage is important for an overall understanding of the text. Each paper should meet the following criteria:

1. Papers should 5-6 pages (excluding the works cited page), double-spaced, with 1" margins, and 12pt Times New Roman font.
2. All papers must be turned in using www.turnitin.com.
3. Begin by selecting a passage (usually between 4-10 sentences long) from the assigned text that (a) makes an argument, and (b) you find personally interesting.
4. Cite two different scholarly sources in the body of your paper. These sources may include a philosophical dictionary or encyclopedia, a philosophical commentary from the library, or a scholarly article found using the library's databases. Do not, however, use other online sources. Cite each source at least once. Use an MLA parenthetical citation format. If you are unfamiliar with this citation format, visit: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/557/01/> or the Collin College writing center.
5. Your paper should include the following sections:
 - a. An introductory paragraph that includes a clear *single sentence* thesis statement that both makes a claim and offers reasons in support of that claim. Your thesis statement should make a claim about *why* your selected passage is important to an overall understanding of the text. (1 paragraph)
 - b. A section that cites your selected passage and provides (1) historical information about its author, and (2) background information about the entire text from which the passage is taken. Who wrote the text? When? What are the text's major themes? From which section of the text is your passage taken? (1-1 ½ pages)
 - c. A section that offers a detailed, formal analysis of your selected passage. Identify the argument's thesis/conclusion. Identify all of the reasons offered in support of this conclusion. Supply any missing or implicit premises. Put the argument into the "standard format." Explain: what connections or relationships between ideas does the passage propose? what differences or distinctions does it identify? which words are especially important or have special meanings (be sure to give explicit definitions for these terms)? (2-3 pages)
 - d. A section that explains in detail why this argument is important to the text's overall purposes. What is the text's overarching theme? How does this particular passage contribute to that theme? (½ – 1 page)
 - e. A section that gives an example of something from contemporary culture (e.g., a scene from a movie or TV show, a song, a commercial, etc.) that illustrates the argument being made in your selected passage. Make a detailed comparison that explicitly states *exactly* how the two are similar. (½ – 1 page)
 - f. A concluding section that neatly summarizes your paper and restates, in a single sentence, your thesis statement. (1 paragraph)
 - g. A Works Cited page.

Note: It is *very* important that you follow these directions with great care and attention to detail. Much of your grade will depend on whether or not your paper precisely fulfills these requirements. Correct spelling and grammar are expected. To improve the quality of your work, please feel free to visit the Writing Center (CPC C118L, 972.548.6857) in the Student Aid area with a draft of your paper.