

Philosophy 101

Identified

Civic Discourse
Communication
Digital Literacy
Scientific Literacy

Assignment (Covers All): Socratic Dialogue

Length: Seven FULL Pages (1900-2100 words)

Format: Double-spaced, One-inch margins, 12-point Times New Roman font□

MLA Guidelines: All papers for this course should be in MLA format. If you follow the guidelines you learned in English 101 and/or 102, you should be fine. If you need to brush up on MLA format, consult Blackboard for a list of MLA formatting requirements. Pay special attention to the section on parenthetical citations. You will need to use this kind of citation when you refer to texts in your paper. □ □

The student must write a creative dialogue in which a rationalist and an empiricist are discussing and debating the following two questions:

- (1) What **is** the nature of reality?
- (2) How do we **know** what's real?

In the dialogue itself, I am expecting the student to create an imaginary conversation between at least two characters. Each character will take turns giving arguments and raising objections to their opponent's viewpoint. The overall style should be done in a fashion similar to a Socratic Dialogue in chapter two (e.g. the Apology), where Socrates cross-examines his interlocutor using his Dialectical Method. Please incorporate the class material whenever it is appropriate, as well as any relevant quotations from any philosophers that may have bearing on the issue. Remember, your main objective is to communicate that you have read, thought about, and understood the course material. If you need an example please see Plato's Apology in the introduction of your textbook.

In answering the questions, all dialogues must incorporate a discussion of the following themes:

- (a) Rationalism, Empiricism, Skepticism, and Idealism
- (b) Innate Ideas vs. the Tabula Rasa
- (c) A Priori vs. A Posteriori Knowledge
- (d) Analytic vs. Synthetic Truths

Moreover, feel free to do any outside research to supplement your dialogue. I only ask that you properly cite all of your sources (including the textbook) and include only sources that have **scholarly** credentials (i.e., **no websites**, you may only use peer-reviewed journal articles and books from academic presses)

Furthermore, I would encourage you to be creative with this assignment. I'm not only looking a substantive conversation between characters but also an interesting one!!! However, I do want the characters to stay on topic the whole time and not waste large parts of the dialogue using dressed up, flowery, or poetic language.