

Upper Level Rubric
Dr. Jack Weinstein

Name: _____

Main Question

How well did the writer answer the main question? Does the main conclusion relate to the content of the paper, or is it supplemental? Is the writer's own position challenged?

Not at all Unacceptable acceptable/average good excellent/superior

Philosophical Content

How well did the writer analyze instead of simply summarize? How well does the essay represent a genuine attempt to grapple with the fundamental issues present in the debate? How much of the author's own philosophical voice is present in the paper?

Not at all Unacceptable acceptable/average good excellent/superior

Paper Sophistication

How well did the writer show advanced philosophical thinking? Is there an attempt to take the text seriously? The controversies? Is there a level of precision and detail representative of advanced work in philosophy?

Not at all Unacceptable acceptable/average good excellent/superior

Argument Structure

How well is the assignment structured? How clear and connected to each other are the ideas in the paper? How well is the paper organized in a logical fashion with smooth transitions between parts? How clearly distinct are the positions and their criticism?

Not at all Unacceptable acceptable/average good excellent/superior

Working with the texts:

How closely does the writer explain and analyze specific positions of the essay(s) the paper is about? How well does the writer respond to the essay(s) in detail? How well does the writer cite the source material and integrate it smoothly into the rest of the essay? Does the writer only summarize, or are the essays used to answer the main question?

Not at all Unacceptable acceptable/average good excellent/superior

Position and Justification

How well did the writer develop her/his claims in this essay? How well did the writer explain her/his claims in detail? How well did the writer support his/her opinions? Does the writer give reasons for the positions, or are they simply assertions and matters of preference?

Not at all Unacceptable acceptable/average good excellent/superior

Paper Context

Is this paper representative of the writers' particular class and the particular discussion from this particular semester? Is the paper rooted in the traditions and controversies of the time period discussed in class? Does the paper show sensitivity to the philosophers' understanding of his or her own vocabulary and concepts?

Not at all Unacceptable acceptable/average good excellent/superior

Language Conventions

How well structured are the writer's sentences and paragraphs? How well did this writer edit for clarity and tone? How well did the writer proofread?

Not at all Unacceptable acceptable/average good excellent/superior

Grade for this assignment: _____
