

Philosophy Paper Topics

Clear and concise, this brief text is designed to assist introductory philosophy students who have no prior experience in writing philosophy papers. Contents include topic selection, outlines, drafts, proper and improper quotation, argument development and evaluation, principles of good writing, style, criteria for grading student papers, and a review of common grammatical and dictional errors. In addition, the book devotes several chapters to basic concepts in logic, which have proven invaluable for philosophy students in the course of critically considering and writing about the ideas and arguments they encounter. Important Notice: Media content referenced within the product description or the product text may not be available in the ebook version.

A state-of-the-art collection of previously unpublished essays on the topics of determinism, free will, moral responsibility, and action theory, written by some of the most important figures in these fields of study.

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Philosophy is most likely the most perplexing subject that a learner will experience during their first years of college. Most students have had no exposure to philosophy in high school nor do they have a clue about what the word 'philosophy' means or what a philosophical problem or question looks like. And on top of all this, the beginning student will usually be asked to write a term paper on a philosophical topic, thereby adding anxiety to the mystery. This book removes the mystery and softens the anxiety in three parts. Part I introduces and clarifies the nature of philosophical problems and the methods that philosophers use to solve them. The mystery usually disappears at this point when students learn that the methods of philosophy are no more than the application of familiar rules of analytic reasoning. Part II explains the wide difference between philosophical and scientific problems by giving examples of each followed by a discussion of how these problems are solved within the confines of the discipline. This helps to sharpen the ideas already expressed in Part I. Part III of the book explains how to organize and write a philosophy term paper in seven steps. Several examples of term paper topics are suggested, and a sample paper is presented and dissected using the seven-step formula.

The Philosophy Student Writer's Manual and Reader's Guide, Fourth Edition, is a set of instructions and exercises that sequentially develop citizenship, academic, and professional skills while providing students with knowledge about

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a wide range of philosophical concepts, phenomena, and information sources. Part 1 begins by teaching students to read newspapers and other media sources critically and analytically. It focuses on the crafts of writing and scholarship by providing the basics of grammar, style, formats, and source citation, and then introduces students to a variety of rich information resources. Part 2 provides advanced exercises in ethics, metaphysics, philosophy of the mind, philosophy of religion, and political philosophy.

While post-Fregean logicians tend to ignore or even denigrate the traditional logic of Aristotle and the Scholastics, new work in recent years has shown the viability of a renewed, extended, and strengthened logic of terms that shares fundamental features of the old syllogistic. A number of logicians, following the lead of Fred Sommers, have built just such a term logic. It is a system of formal logic that not only matches the expressive and inferential powers of today's standard logic, but surpasses it and is far simpler and more natural. This book aims to substantiate this claim by exhibiting just how the term logic can shed need light on a variety of challenges that face any system of formal logic.

Writing Philosophy: A Student's Guide to Reading and Writing Philosophy Essays, Second Edition, is a concise, self-guided manual that covers how to read philosophy and the basics of argumentative essay writing. It encourages students to master fundamental skills quickly--with minimal instructor input--and provides step-by-step instructions for each phase of the writing process, from formulating a thesis, to creating an outline, to writing a final draft, supplementing this tutorial approach with model essays, outlines, introductions, and conclusions. *Writing Philosophy* is just \$5 when packaged with any Oxford University Press Philosophy text. Contact your Oxford representative for details and package ISBNs.

Moral Dilemmas is the second volume of collected essays by the eminent moral philosopher Philippa Foot. It fills the gap between her famous 1978 collection *Virtues and Vices* (now reissued) and her acclaimed monograph *Natural Goodness*, published in 2001. *Moral Dilemmas* presents the best of Professor Foot's work from the late 1970s to the 1990s. In these essays she develops further her influential critique of the 'non-cognitivist' approaches that have dominated moral philosophy over the last fifty years. She shows why it is a mistake to think of morality in terms of special psychological states, expressed in special kinds of judgement and a special 'moral' kind of language. Instead she portrays thoughts about the goodness of human will and action as a particular case of the evaluation of other operations of human beings, and indeed of all living things. Among other topics, she discusses the nature of moral judgement, practical rationality, and the conflict of virtue with desire and self-interest. *Moral Dilemmas*, alongside Professor Foot's other two books, completes the summation of her distinctive and lasting contribution to twentieth-century moral philosophy.

In recent years numerous attempts have been made by analytic philosophers to naturalize various different domains of philosophical inquiry. All of these attempts have had the common goal of rendering these areas of philosophy amenable to empirical methods, with the intention of securing for them the supposedly objective status and broad intellectual appeal currently associated with such approaches. This volume brings together internationally recognised analytic philosophers, including Alvin Plantinga, Peter van Inwagen and Robert Audi, to question the project of naturalism. The articles investigate what it means to naturalize a

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domain of philosophical inquiry and look at how this applies to the various sub-disciplines of philosophy including epistemology, metaphysics and the philosophy of the mind. The issue of whether naturalism is desirable is raised and the contributors take seriously the possibility that excellent analytic philosophy can be undertaken without naturalization. Controversial and thought-provoking, *Analytic Philosophy Without Naturalism* examines interesting and contentious methodological issues in analytic philosophy and explores the connections between philosophy and science.

"The Brute Within will be of substantial interest to anyone engaged in the study of emotion, rationality, motivation, and philosophy of psychology, as well as to ancient philosophers."--Jacket.

Richard A. ("Red") Watson has published fiction, general nonfiction, and scholarly books. His essay "On the Zeedijk," about Descartes in Holland and first published in *The Georgia Review*, was the lead essay in *The Pushcart Prize XV, 1990–1991: Best of the Small Presses*. Red knows writing. He also knows academe and has written *Writing Philosophy* as a kind of survival manual for undergraduates, graduate students, and junior faculty members in philosophy. Also helpful to those in the humanities and the social sciences, the book is a guide to the professional writing and publishing that are essential to an active participation in the conversation and discussion that constitute these professional fields. To the extent that publication is the crucial factor in tenure decisions, it will help the beginning scholar meet tenure criteria. Despite the importance of the oral tradition in philosophy and the influence of the dialogue, many philosophical points are so intricate and complex that they can be advanced, followed, and criticized only if they are written as stepwise arguments for study and contemplation at length and at leisure. Watson provides a set of basic principles and a plan for writing argumentative papers of 1,500 to 15,000 words (3 to 30 printed pages) and books containing a sequence of sustained arguments of 70,000 to 150,000 words (200 to 300 printed pages). Because the first book of most professional philosophers is a revised dissertation, Watson presents a plan for writing that dissertation in such a way that its chapters will serve as publishable articles and the dissertation itself will need very little rewriting as a book. His discussion of the principles of reason, clarity, and argument ranges from such topics as dangling participles and the proper usage of ellipses to matters of categorization and univocity. Written by one of the founders of modern political philosophy, Thomas Hobbes, during the English civil war, *Leviathan* is an influential work of nonfiction. Regarded as one of the earliest examples of the social contract theory, *Leviathan* has both historical and philosophical importance. Social contract theory prioritizes the state over the individual, claiming that individuals have consented to the surrender of some of their freedoms by participating in society. These surrendered freedoms help ensure that the government can be run easily. In exchange for their sacrifice, the individual is protected and given a place in a steady social order. Articulating this theory, Hobbes argues for a strong, undivided government ruled by an absolute sovereign. To support his argument, Hobbes includes topics of religion, human nature and taxation. Separated into four sections, Hobbes claims his theory to be the resolution of the civil war that raged on as he wrote, creating chaos and taking casualties. The first section, *Of Man* discusses the role human nature and instinct plays in the formation of government. The second section, *Of Commonwealth* explains the definition, implications, types, and rules of succession in a commonwealth government. *Of a Christian Commonwealth* imagines the religion's role government and societal moral standards. Finally, Hobbes closes his argument with *Of the Kingdom of Darkness*. Through the use of philosophical theory and historical study, Thomas Hobbes attempts to convince citizens to consider the cost and reward of being governed. Without an understanding of the sociopolitical theories that keep government bodies in power, subjects can easily become complicit or allow society to slip into anarchy. Created during a brutal civil war, Hobbes hoped to educate and persuade his peers. Though *Leviathan*

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was a work of controversy in its time, Hobbes' theories and prose has survived centuries, shaping the ideas of modern philosophy. This edition of Leviathan by Thomas Hobbes is now presented with a stunning new cover design and is printed in an easy-to-read font. With these accommodations, Leviathan is accessible and applicable to contemporary readers.

Built around practical exercises, this book helps students to practise and master core reading and writing skills crucial to the successful study of philosophy.

What is Islamic Philosophy? offers a broad introduction to Islamic thought, from its origins to the many challenging issues facing Muslims in the contemporary world. The chapters explore early Islamic philosophy and trace its development through key themes and figures up to the twenty-first century. Topics covered include: ethical issues such as just war, abortion, women's rights, homosexuality and cloning questions in political philosophy regarding what kind of Islamic state could exist and how democratic can (or should) Islam really be the contribution of Islam to 'big questions' such as the existence of God, the concept of the soul, and what constitutes truth. This fresh and original book includes a helpful glossary and suggestions for further reading. It is ideal for students coming to the subject for the first time as well as anyone wanting to learn about the philosophical tradition and dilemmas that are part of the Islamic worldview.

Discover an all-in-one guide to writing with Seech's WRITING PHILOSOPHY PAPERS, 5e. Written specifically for philosophy students, this unique book leads your students through every aspect of writing philosophy papers and serves as an ideal supplement for any philosophy class that includes writing assignments. Seech guides students through each step of creating and organizing a strong philosophy essay--from the conception of a thesis and basic mechanics of writing through conducting effective research and accurately citing sources. Your students learn the skills for formulating articulate, intelligent arguments. Sample essays in the back of the book provide valuable examples for students to reference. This edition introduces students to the organization, style, and reasoning behind the primary types of philosophy papers, including compare-and-contrast, research, and summary and explanatory papers. A new chapter on Internet research (Chapter 7) discusses source accountability and use of the Internet encyclopedia Wikipedia. New discussions on plagiarism in a digital age and word processing today further prepare students for writing success. Widely used and highly praised in prior editions, WRITING PHILOSOPHY PAPERS, 5e, serves as a valuable, ongoing reference for students in any philosophy class. Important Notice: Media content referenced within the product description or the product text may not be available in the ebook version. This volume honors Professor Andrzej Grzegorzczak, the nestor of Polish logicians, on his 85th anniversary. The editors would like to express the respect and sympathy they have for him. His textbook The Outline of Mathematical Logic has been published in many editions and translated into several languages. It was this textbook that introduced many of us into the world of mathematical logic. Professor Grzegorzczak has made fundamental contributions to logic and to philosophy. His results, mainly on hierarchy of primitive recursive functions, known as the Grzegorzczak hierarchy, are of fundamental importance to theoretical computer science. In particular, they were precursory for the computational complexity theory. The editors would like to stress that this special publication celebrates a scientist who is still actively pursuing genuinely innovative directions of research. Quite recently, Andrzej Grzegorzczak gave a new proof of undecidability of the first order functional calculus. His proof does not use the arithmetization of Kurt Gödel. In recognition of his merits, the University of Clermont-Ferrand conferred to Professor Andrzej Grzegorzczak the Doctorat Honoris Causa. The work and life of Professor Andrzej Grzegorzczak is presented in the article by Professors Stanislaw Krajewski and Jan Wolenski. The papers in this collection have been submitted on invitational basis. A central theme of this collection is that the philosophy of language, at least a core portion of it, has matured to the point where it is now being spun off into linguistic theory.

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"The Value of Philosophy" is one of the most important chapters of Bertrand's Russell's magnum Opus, *The Problems of Philosophy*. As a whole, Russell focuses on problems he believes will provoke positive and constructive discussion, Russell concentrates on knowledge rather than metaphysics: If it is uncertain that external objects exist, how can we then have knowledge of them but by probability. There is no reason to doubt the existence of external objects simply because of sense data.

The 1896-1899 papers, few of which were published in Russell's lifetime, concentrates primarily on physics, arithmetic and the concept of quantity. Several views that later became well-known in his *The Principles of Mathematics* actually originate in his earlier work, and though incomplete, *An Analysis of Mathematical Reasoning*, forms a centrepiece of the volume. This book discusses a range of important issues in current philosophical work on the nature of possible worlds. Areas investigated include the theories of the nature of possible worlds, general questions about metaphysical analysis and questions about the direction of dependence between what is necessary or possible and what could be.

This monograph focuses on the level of management culture development in organizations attempting to disclose it not only with the help of theoretical insights but also by the approach based on employees and managers. Why was the term "management culture" that is rarely found in literature selected for the analysis? We are quite often faced with problems of terminology. Especially, it often happens in the translation from one language to another. While preparing this monograph, the authors had a number of questions on how to decouple the management culture from organization's culture and from organizational culture, how to separate management culture from managerial culture, etc. However, having analysed a variety of scientific research, it appeared that there is no need to break down the mentioned cultures because they still overlap. Therefore, it is impossible to completely separate the management culture from the formal or informal part of organizational culture. Management culture inevitably exists in every organization, only its level of development may vary.

A collection of essays by prominent contemporary philosophers in which they explore some of the central questions of the field, discussing reasoning, knowledge and self, God, morality, society, and the meaning of life.

"The fox knows many things, but the hedgehog knows one big thing." This ancient Greek aphorism, preserved in a fragment from the poet Archilochus, describes the central thesis of Isaiah Berlin's masterly essay on Leo Tolstoy and the philosophy of history, the subject of the epilogue to *War and Peace*. Although there have been many interpretations of the adage, Berlin uses it to mark a fundamental distinction between human beings who are fascinated by the infinite variety of things and those who relate everything to a central, all-embracing system. Applied to Tolstoy, the saying illuminates a paradox that helps explain his philosophy of history: Tolstoy was a fox, but believed in being a hedgehog. One of Berlin's most celebrated works, this extraordinary essay offers profound insights about Tolstoy, historical understanding, and human psychology. This new edition features a revised text that supplants all previous versions, English translations of the many passages in foreign languages, a new foreword in which Berlin biographer Michael Ignatieff explains the enduring appeal of Berlin's essay, and a new appendix that provides rich context, including excerpts from reviews and Berlin's letters, as well as a startling new interpretation of Archilochus's epigram.

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Building on the virtues that made the first edition of "A Presocratics Reader" -- the most widely used sourcebook for the study of the Presocratics and Sophists -- this second edition offers even more value and a wider selection of fragments from these philosophical predecessors and contemporaries of Socrates. With revised introductions, annotations, suggestions for further reading, and more, the second edition draws on the wealth of new scholarship published on these fascinating thinkers over the past decade or more, a remarkably rich period in Presocratic studies. At the volume's core, as ever, are the fragments themselves but now in thoroughly revised and, in some cases, new translations.

Edited by a team of four leading philosophers, The Norton Introduction to Philosophy introduces students to contemporary perspectives on major philosophical issues and questions. This text features an impressive array of readings, including 25 specially-commissioned essays by prominent philosophers. A student-friendly presentation, a handy format, and a low price make The Norton Introduction to Philosophy as accessible and affordable as it is up-to-date.

Vols. for 1981-88 accompanied by supplements: Proceedings of the Southwestern Philosophical Society; and Phenomenology and the human sciences.

Philosophical Writing: An Introduction, 4th Edition, features numerous updates and revisions to A. P. Martinich's best-selling text that instructs beginning philosophy students on how to craft a well-written philosophical essay. Features an entirely new chapter on how to read a philosophical essay, new sections on quantification and modality, and rhetoric in philosophical writing, as well as more updated essay examples Includes many new essay examples and an accompanying website with further topics and examples Traces the evolution of a good philosophical essay from draft stage to completion Emphasizes what a student should do in crafting an essay, rather than on what not to do Written with clarity and humor by a leading philosopher

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This work, originally published in 1912, is an introduction to the theory of philosophical enquiry. It gives Russell's views on such subjects as the distinction between appearance and reality and the existence and nature of matter.

The contributors to this volume describe a range of programs that use picture books to teach

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philosophy to diverse audiences. From a pre-school program in which college students do the teaching to a program focused on overcoming the legacy of violence and genocide in Mali in which the teachers write and illustrate their own picture books, the authors demonstrate the impact that learning philosophy has on diverse communities of young students and their teachers.

Since ancient times, hedonism has been one of the most attractive and controversial theories. In this text, the author presents a careful, modern formulation of hedonism, defending the theory against some of the most important objections.

A #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER One of the most salient features of our culture is that there is so much bullshit. Everyone knows this. Each of us contributes his share. But we tend to take the situation for granted. Most people are rather confident of their ability to recognize bullshit and to avoid being taken in by it. So the phenomenon has not aroused much deliberate concern. We have no clear understanding of what bullshit is, why there is so much of it, or what functions it serves. And we lack a conscientiously developed appreciation of what it means to us. In other words, as Harry Frankfurt writes, "we have no theory." Frankfurt, one of the world's most influential moral philosophers, attempts to build such a theory here. With his characteristic combination of philosophical acuity, psychological insight, and wry humor, Frankfurt proceeds by exploring how bullshit and the related concept of humbug are distinct from lying. He argues that bullshitters misrepresent themselves to their audience not as liars do, that is, by deliberately making false claims about what is true. In fact, bullshit need not be untrue at all. Rather, bullshitters seek to convey a certain impression of themselves without being concerned about whether anything at all is true. They quietly change the rules governing their end of the conversation so that claims about truth and falsity are irrelevant. Frankfurt concludes that although bullshit can take many innocent forms, excessive indulgence in it can eventually undermine the practitioner's capacity to tell the truth in a way that lying does not. Liars at least acknowledge that it matters what is true. By virtue of this, Frankfurt writes, bullshit is a greater enemy of the truth than lies are.

During the early modern era (c. 1600-1800), philosophers formulated a number of new questions, methods of investigation, and theories regarding the nature of the mind. The result of their efforts has been described as "the original cognitive revolution". Topics in Early Modern Philosophy of Mind provides a comprehensive snapshot of this exciting period in the history of thinking about the mind, presenting studies of a wide array of philosophers and topics. Written by some of today's foremost authorities on early modern philosophy, the ten chapters address issues ranging from those that have long captivated philosophers and psychologists as well as those that have been underexplored. Likewise, the papers engage figures from the history of ideas who are well-known today (Descartes, Hume, Kant) as well as those who have been comparatively neglected by contemporary scholarship (Desgabets, Boyle, Collins). This volume will become an essential reference work that graduate students and professionals in the fields of philosophy of mind, the history of philosophy, and the history of psychology will want to own.

"With a strong interdisciplinary approach to a subject that does not lend itself easily to the reference format, this work may not seem to support directly academic programs beyond general research, but it is a more thorough and up-to-date treatment than Taylor and Francis's 1994 Encyclopedia of Time. Highly recommended." —Library Journal STARRED Review
Surveying the major facts, concepts, theories, and speculations that infuse our present comprehension of time, the Encyclopedia of Time: Science, Philosophy, Theology, & Culture explores the contributions of scientists, philosophers, theologians, and creative artists from ancient times to the present. By drawing together into one collection ideas from scholars around the globe and in a wide range of disciplines, this Encyclopedia will provide readers with a greater understanding of and appreciation for the elusive phenomenon experienced as time.

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Features Surveys historical thought about time, including those ideas that emerged in ancient Greece, early Christianity, the Italian Renaissance, the Age of Enlightenment, and other periods Covers the original and lasting insights of evolutionary biologist Charles Darwin, physicist Albert Einstein, philosopher Alfred North Whitehead, and theologian Pierre Teilhard de Chardin Discusses the significance of time in the writings of Isaac Asimov, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Fyodor M. Dostoevsky, Francesco Petrarca, H. G. Wells, and numerous other authors Contains the contributions of naturalists and religionists, including astronomers, cosmologists, physicists, chemists, geologists, paleontologists, anthropologists, psychologists, philosophers, and theologians Includes artists' portrayals of the fluidity of time, including painter Salvador Dali's *The Persistence of Memory* and *The Discovery of America* by Christopher Columbus, and writers Gustave Flaubert's *The Temptation of Saint Anthony* and Henryk Sienkiewicz's *Quo Vadis* Provides a truly interdisciplinary approach, with discussions of Aztec, Buddhist, Christian, Egyptian, Ethiopian, Hindu, Islamic, Navajo, and many other cultures' conceptions of time Key Themes Biography Biology/Evolution Culture/History Geology/Paleontology Philosophy Physics/Chemistry Psychology/Literature Religion/Theology Theories/Concepts

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