

PHIL 13195: First (ungraded, mini-)paper assignment

Jeff Speaks

Due: in class, this Thursday

The reading for Thursday is Aquinas' five proofs for the existence of God, which are often called the 'five ways.' For Thursday, you should give an analysis of Aquinas' second way in premise/conclusion form. The argument you hand in should have the following characteristics:

1. The premises should be labeled, preferably with numbers.
2. If some premises follow from other premises, you should make this clear. The standard way to do this is as follows: if some premise is supposed to follow from premises 2 and 5, write after that premise: (2, 5).
3. The argument should be valid.
4. The argument should be typed.

I know that this will be very difficult for you, but that is really and truly all that you should do. Do not write an introductory paragraph, a concluding paragraph, include a works cited page, etc. Do not use outside sources. Just a valid argument in premise/conclusion form with labeled premises and logical relations between the premises made clear.

This draft will not be graded.

HOW [NOT] TO STRUCTURE A PAPER BY RIMA BASU

[OPENING QUOTE - BE SURE TO NEVER REFERENCE THIS QUOTE AGAIN ANYWHERE ELSE IN YOUR PAPER]

SINCE THE DAWN OF TIME MAN HAS BEEN STRUGGLING WITH...
[CONTINUE FOR REST OF INTRODUCTION; MAKE SURE NOT TO STATE WHAT YOU WILL BE ARGUING IN THE PAPER]

[INSERT PHILOSOPHER'S NAME SPELT INCORRECTLY] ARGUES...
[INSERT UNCITED PASSAGE FROM WIKIPEDIA]

[INSERT BLOCK QUOTE. DO NOT EXPLAIN QUOTE.]

I DON'T THINK THAT [INSERT A DIFFERENT PHILOSOPHER'S NAME] IS RIGHT BECAUSE...

[INSERT UNCITED PASSAGE FROM WIKIPEDIA]

[INSERT BLOCK QUOTE. DO NOT EXPLAIN QUOTE.]

AND THIS IS BECAUSE...
[INSERT FAILED AT ATTEMPT AT LOGICAL VOCABULARY HERE]

THUS I CONCLUDE THAT SINCE I HAVE ENGAGED IN THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THIS GREAT DEBATE FOR ONLY THE MERE MINUTES IT TOOK ME TO GOOGLE THE ESSAY QUESTION, I JUST, DUNNO.

[INSERT BLOCK QUOTE. DO NOT EXPLAIN QUOTE.]