

PHIL 13195: Final draft of mini-paper

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Due: in class, Tuesday, September 23

In the passage we read, Descartes presents arguments for (among other things) the following two conclusions:

- We cannot know anything about corporeal bodies.
- Persons are distinct from their bodies.

In your paper, do the following two things:

1. Pick one of these two conclusions, and state the most convincing valid argument in premise/conclusion form that Descartes gives for this conclusion. If you think that some of the premises are supposed to follow from others, be sure that this is clear.
2. In one paragraph, develop an objection to the premise in your formulation of the argument that you think is weakest.
3. In a second paragraph, say how you think that Descartes should reply to this objection. You may do this either by directly responding to the objection (i.e., by defending the premise in question against the objection) or by showing how the argument can be reformulated so as to avoid the objection.

When you hand in your paper, you should also include your first and second drafts. You should feel free to either revise the paper you handed in in the second draft in light of my comments, or start from scratch with a new formulation of the argument and objection.

Again, that's all you have to do. Don't write an introduction, or conclusion. Just a formalized argument + a one-paragraph objection to one of the premises + a reply to that objection.

You should type the paper.