

Paper #2

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PHIL 30304

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Your second paper is due on Tuesday, 10/30. It should be handed in by email attachment.

Chalmers defines three different types of materialist views: Type A, B, and C materialism. Alternatively, one might defend an anti-materialist view. The purpose of this paper is for you to explain which of these views you endorse, and why.

More, specifically, the paper should have five parts, which should be clearly separated and marked:

1. A statement of which of these four views you endorse. This should take one sentence.
2. A more specific explanation of the version of that view you endorse. For example, if you endorse type B materialism, do you opt for identity theory or a version of functionalism? If you endorse anti-physicalism and go for a version of dualism, are you an epiphenomenalist or an interactionist?
3. A statement of what you take to be the strongest argument for the view explained in §1-2. The argument should be explained in your own words. It may be stated in premise/conclusion form, or in ordinary prose. Either way, it should be clear (i) what the premises are, (ii) why you take those premises to imply the conclusion, and (iii) why you believe that these premises are true. This should take 1-2 pages.
4. A statement of what you take to be the strongest objection to your position. This objection may be (a) an argument that the thesis in §1-2 is false or (b) an objection to the argument in §3. This should take 1-3 paragraphs.
5. An explanation of why in the end you are not convinced by the argument in §4. This should take 1-2 paragraphs.

Papers will be evaluated based on (1) clarity, (2) cogency of argumentation, and (3) originality.