**­I. Paper Mechanics**

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|  | 0-5 Points | 6 Points | 7 Points | 8 points | 9-10 Points |
| Spelling and Grammar | The student needs to consult writing tutors for help with writing mechanics. | The paper contains at least two grammatical and/or spelling errors that prevent a reader from understanding the author’s thesis. | The paper contains grammatical and/or spelling errors that make reading at least one paragraph difficult. One or two sentences may be ambiguous in ways that compromise clarity. | The paper contains more than two small spelling and/or grammatical mistakes. However, such mistakes do not detract from ability of the paper to be understood and/or read without difficulty. | The paper is largely free of spelling and/or grammatical errors. No more than two small mistakes are present. |

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|  | 0 Points | 1-2 Points | 3 Points | 4 points | 5 Points |
| Citations and Quotations | No citations or quotations present. | -The paper contains three or more errors with respect to the criteria outlined in the “5 point” column. | -The paper contains at least two errors with respect to the criteria outlined in the “5 point” column. | -The paper contains at least one error with respect to the criteria outlined in the “5 point” column. | - All controversial interpretative claims are supported by quotations.  -All quotations contain citations to appropriate page numbers within the text.  -Paraphrased sections of the text are cited (you may cite the page numbers at the end of a paragraph).  -A reference section is present that indicates all secondary literature that was consulted (if any).  -Quotations are not used to bolster uncontroversial interpretative claims. |

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|  | 0-8 Points | 9-10 Points | 11-12 Points | 13 points | 14-15 points |
| Opening Paragraph | The opening paragraph could be deleted without compromising the quality of the paper. | -The outline of the paper is missing.  -There is no relevant background information that helps one understand the argument of the paper. | The outline of the paper is missing and the background is vague, but appropriate. The opening paragraph may also contain other unnecessary elements. | One of the following:  -The outline is unclear, or  -Background provided is either  vague/overly- general, or insufficient to provide context for the thesis.  -The opening paragraph contains information other than an outline of the paper and a brief explanation of the intellectual background. | -Clearly outlines of contents of the reminder of the paper.  -Briefly explains necessary background to understand the paper.  -Nothing other than an outline of the paper and a brief explanation of the intellectual background is present. |

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| S | 0-1 Points | 2-4 Points | 5-6 Points | 7-8 points | 9-10 Points |
| Style | The paper is very difficult to read in virtue of excessively long sentences, inappropriate word choice, and unnecessary abstraction. | Exactly four sentences fail to satisfy the criteria in the “10 points” column. | Exactly three sentences fail to satisfy the criteria in the “10 points” column. | Exactly two sentences fail to satisfy the criteria in the “10 points” column. | - Sentences are concise.  - Sentence structure is varied.  - No unnecessary adverbs or adjectives are present.  -Abstract concepts are explained using concrete examples. |

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|  | 0-2 Points | 3-4 Points | 5-6 Points | 7-8 Points | 9-10 points |
| Defining terms and word choice | Both of the following obtains:  -Two or more central philosophical terms are undefined or unexplained.  - Two or more errors concerning non-philosophical word choice. | At least one of the following obtains:  -Two or more central philosophical terms are undefined or unexplained.  -Two or more errors concerning non-philosophical word choice. | Both of the following obtain:  -One central philosophical term is undefined.  -Exactly two errors concerning non-philosophical word choice. | Exactly one of the following obtains:  -One central philosophical term is undefined or is defined incorrectly.  -Exactly two errors concerning non-philosophical word choice. | -All technical philosophical terminology is correctly defined or explained in everyday English.  -Examples are used to illustrate philosophical concepts.  -Non-philosophical terms are used correctly and precisely throughout the paper.  -The same word is used to denote the same concept throughout the paper (i.e., writer does not use a thesaurus needlessly). |

**II. Paper Substance**

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|  | 0-14 Points | 15-17 Points | 18-19 Points | 20-22 Points | 23-25 Points |
| Argument Reconstruction | Several errors of the types enumerated in the column to the right. | All of the following:  -One of the author's premises and/or conclusions are not clearly identified or stated.  -The paper fails to identify obvious implicit premises necessary to render the argument valid or inductively strong.  -The paper fails to explains how various claims in the argument follow from one another. | -The author's conclusion is stated clearly.  -One or more of the author's premises is not identified or stated clearly.  **AND**  Any of the following:  -The paper fails to identify obvious implicit premises necessary to render the argument valid or strong.  -The paper fails to explain how various claims in the argument follow from one another.  -The paper contains at least one paragraph irrelevant to the prompt. | -The author's premises are stated clearly, with perhaps one small error.  -The author's conclusion is stated clearly.  -The paper does not contain any paragraphs irrelevant to the prompt.  Any of the following errors:  -The paper fails to identify obvious implicit premises necessary to render the argument valid or inductively strong.  -The paper distinguishes implicit from explicit premises,  -The paper explains how various claims in the argument follow from one another. | -The author's premises are identified stated clearly.  -The author's conclusion is stated clearly.  -The paper identifies implicit premises necessary to render argument valid or at least inductively strong.  -The paper distinguishes implicit from explicit premises.  -The paper explains how various claims in the argument follow from one another, thereby terminating in the conclusion.  -The paper does not contain any paragraphs irrelevant to the prompt. In particular, the author’s argument is not criticized or defended.  -The student distinguishes his or her own ideas and theses from those of the author. |

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|  | 0-14 Points | 15-17 Points | 18-19 Points | 20-22 Points | 23-25 Points |
| Student Argument | The argument is incoherent or irrelevant. | *Both* of the following:  -The paper does not state whether the student's argument questions the validity of an inference or the truth of one of the premises of the reconstructed argument.  AND  -Several errors with respect to the remaining criteria in the rightmost column | *Both* of the following:  -The paper does not state whether the student's argument questions the validity of an inference or the truth of one of the premises of the reconstructed argument.  AND  -No more than one error with respect to the remaining criteria in the rightmost column. | *At least one* of the following errors:  -The paper does not state whether the student's argument questions the validity of an inference or the truth of one of the premises of the reconstructed argument.  -At least one error with respect to the remaining criteria in the rightmost column. | -The paper explains whether the student's argument questions the validity of an inference or the truth of one of the premises of the reconstructed argument.  -Premises of the are student's argument identified stated clearly.  -The conclusion of the argument is stated clearly.  -The argument is valid or at least inductively strong.  -The paper explains how various claims in the argument follow from one another, thereby terminating in the conclusion. |