

## I. Paper Mechanics

	0-5 Points	6 Points	7 Points	8 points	9-10 Points
Spelling and Grammar	<p>Grammatical errors make understanding the author's thesis and/or argument difficult.</p> <p>The student needs to consult writing tutors for help with writing mechanics.</p>	<p>The author's thesis is clearly identifiable, and his or her argument can be followed despite grammatical errors</p> <p>Both:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The paper contains grammatical and/or spelling that compromise clarity and/or create ambiguity.</li> </ul> <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The paper contains at least four spelling and/or grammatical issues.</li> </ul>	<p>The author's thesis is clearly identifiable, and his or her argument can be followed despite grammatical errors</p> <p>However, exactly one of the following holds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The paper contains grammatical and/or spelling that compromise clarity and/or create ambiguity.</li> </ul> <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The paper contains at least three spelling and/or grammatical issues.</li> </ul>	<p>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.</p>	<p>The paper is largely free of spelling and/or grammatical errors. No more than two small mistakes are present.</p>

	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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All controversial interpretative claims are supported by quotations.</li> <li>-All quotations contain citations to appropriate page numbers within the text.</li> <li>-Paraphrased sections of the text are cited (you may cite the page numbers at the end of a paragraph).</li> <li>-A reference section is present that indicates all secondary literature that was consulted (if any).</li> <li>-Quotations are not used to bolster uncontroversial interpretative claims.</li> <li>- If quotations are long, if they contain archaic language, or if they contain technical philosophical terms, then they are explained in the student’s own words.</li> </ul>

	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.	All of the following: - No thesis is present -The outline of the paper is missing. -There is no relevant background information that helps one understand the argument of the paper.	A thesis statement is present. AND Two of the following: -The outline of the paper is missing. -The background is inappropriately vague to provide context for the thesis. -The opening paragraph contains other unnecessary elements.	A thesis statement is present. AND 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 remainder of the paper. -Contains a thesis statement. -Briefly explains necessary background to understand the paper. -Nothing other than a thesis, outline of the paper, and a brief explanation of the intellectual background is present.

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. -Metaphors are always restated in non-metaphorical language.

	0-2 Points	3-4 Points	5-6 Points	7-8 Points	9-10 points
Defining terms and word choice	<p>Both of the following obtains:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Two or more central philosophical terms are undefined or unexplained.</li> <li>- Two or more errors concerning non-philosophical word choice.</li> </ul>	<p>At least one of the following obtains:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Two or more central philosophical terms are undefined or unexplained.</li> <li>-Two or more errors concerning non-philosophical word choice.</li> </ul>	<p>Both of the following obtain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-One central philosophical term is undefined.</li> <li>-Exactly two errors concerning non-philosophical word choice.</li> </ul>	<p>Exactly one of the following obtains:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-One central philosophical term is undefined or is defined incorrectly.</li> <li>-Exactly two errors concerning non-philosophical word choice.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-All technical philosophical terminology is correctly defined or explained in everyday English.</li> <li>-Examples are used to illustrate philosophical concepts.</li> <li>-Non-philosophical terms are used correctly and precisely throughout the paper.</li> <li>-The same word is used to denote the same concept throughout the paper (i.e., writer does not use a thesaurus needlessly).</li> </ul>

## II. Paper Substance

	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.	<p>All of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-One of the author's premises and/or conclusions are not clearly identified or stated.</li> <li>-The paper fails to identify obvious implicit premises necessary to render the argument valid or inductively strong.</li> <li>-The paper fails to explain how various claims in the argument follow from one another.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The author's conclusion is stated clearly.</li> <li>-One or more of the author's premises is not identified or stated clearly.</li> </ul> <p><b>AND</b></p> <p><u>Any of the following:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The paper fails to identify obvious implicit premises necessary to render the argument valid or strong.</li> <li>-The paper fails to explain how various claims in the argument follow from one another.</li> <li>-The paper contains at least one paragraph irrelevant to the prompt.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The author's premises are stated clearly, with perhaps one small error.</li> <li>-The author's conclusion is stated clearly.</li> <li>-The paper does not contain any paragraphs irrelevant to the prompt.</li> </ul> <p><u>Any of the following errors:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The paper fails to identify obvious implicit premises necessary to render the argument valid or inductively strong.</li> <li>-The paper distinguishes implicit from explicit premises,</li> <li>-The paper explains how various claims in the argument follow from one another.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The author's premises are identified stated clearly.</li> <li>-The author's conclusion is stated clearly.</li> <li>-The paper identifies implicit premises necessary to render argument valid or at least inductively strong.</li> <li>-The paper distinguishes implicit from explicit premises.</li> <li>-The paper explains how various claims in the argument follow from one another, thereby terminating in the conclusion.</li> <li>-The paper does not contain any paragraphs irrelevant to the prompt. In particular, the author's argument is not criticized or defended.</li> <li>-The student distinguishes his or her own ideas and theses from those of the author.</li> </ul>

	0-14 Points	15-17 Points	18-19 Points	20-22 Points	23-25 Points
Objection	The argument is incoherent or irrelevant.	<p><i>Both</i> of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The paper does not state whether the objection questions the validity of an inference or the truth of one of the premises of the reconstructed argument.</li> </ul> <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Several errors with respect to the remaining criteria in the rightmost column</li> </ul>	<p><i>Both</i> of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The paper does not state whether the objection questions the validity of an inference or the truth of one of the premises of the reconstructed argument.</li> </ul> <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-No more than one error with respect to the remaining criteria in the rightmost column.</li> </ul>	<p><i>At least one</i> of the following errors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The paper does not state whether the objection questions the validity of an inference or the truth of one of the premises of the reconstructed argument.</li> <li>-At least one error with respect to the remaining criteria in the rightmost column.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The paper explains whether the objection questions the validity of an inference or the truth of one of the premises of the reconstructed argument.</li> <li>-Premises of the objection identified stated clearly.</li> <li>-The conclusion of the objection is stated clearly.</li> <li>-The objection is valid or at least inductively strong.</li> <li>-The paper explains how various claims in the objection follow from one another, thereby terminating in the conclusion.</li> </ul>