

## Philosophy Paper Rubric

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### Motivate topic **(5 points)**

- State and explain the purpose of the paper.
- State and explain the philosophical problem.
- Define the technical terms in the paper topic/question.

### State thesis **(10 points)**

- State what your conclusion is.

### Argue in favor of the thesis **(10 points)**

- Summarize the position in the philosopher's words.
- Define all terms.
- Explain these terms and the basic position in your own words.
- Argue and support the position.

### State opposition to the thesis **(10 points)**

- State the opposite of your thesis.

### Provide reasons on behalf of the opposition **(5 points)**

- Summarize the position in the philosopher's words.
- Define all terms.
- Explain these terms and the basic position in your own words.
- Argue and support the position.

### Argue in favor of your thesis *in light of* opposing view **(10 points)**

- Point out where two different words actually mean the same thing and where two of the same words have different meanings.
- Argue against opposition.
- Argue for thesis.

Possible changes to grade:

Supportive quote: +1

Explicit discussion of fallacy in opponent's argument: +1

Name on paper: -1

*If you want to make an argument for a different grade, email me a one-page explanation for why you should earn a different grade than the one I granted.*