

Name: _____

Philosophy 1100 - Essay Checklist and Cover Sheet

I. Introduction

1. Is my introduction concise? Yes __ No __
2. Does it contain a clear statement of my main thesis? Yes __ No __
3. Does it indicate very briefly my main line of argument? Yes __ No __
4. Does it explain the overall structure of my essay? Yes __ No __

II. Logical and Perspicuous Structure

1. Is my essay organized into sections in a logical fashion? Yes __ No __
2. Have I made the overall structure of my essay clear by using informative headings for sections? Yes __ No __

III. Offering of Reasons

1. Have I set out an argument (or at most two arguments) to provide reasons for thinking that my thesis is true? Yes __ No __
2. Have I made all of my premises clear and explicit? Yes __ No __
3. Have I developed my argument in a full and detailed way, so that all of my reasoning is clear to the reader? Yes __ No __

IV. Consideration of Objections to my Arguments

1. Have I carefully set out the most important objection to each of my arguments? Yes __ No __
2. Have I then responded, in a careful way, to that objection (or objections)? Yes __ No __

V. Consideration of Objections to my Thesis

1. Have I considered the most important objection against the thesis that I am defending? Yes __ No __
2. Have I responded carefully to that objection? Yes __ No __

VI. Setting Out Arguments, Objections, and Responses

1. Is every argument, every objection, and every response that I set out always contained in a separate paragraph? Yes __ No __
2. Is every objection that I consider always followed immediately, in a separate paragraph, by a response? Yes __ No __

VII. Dispassionate and Unemotional Discussion

1. Have I made use of emotionally charged language? Yes __ No __
2. Is my discussion dispassionate and fair throughout? Yes __ No __

VIII. Overall Clarity and Conciseness

1. Is my writing clear and straightforward, and concise? Yes __ No __