

Suggestions for How to Revise a Philosophy Essay

In writing a philosophy essay, one must strive for:

1) *clarity and precision*

- a) achieved in how one defines main concepts and distinctions, and
- b) by explaining the relation between main concepts in a meaningful way

2) *explanatory depth*

- a) achieved by demonstrating how stories, images, metaphors, examples, and the like, can be considered relevant to the view being explained, and
- b) by precisely articulating the arguments or reasons used to justify the view being explained, i.e., by identifying and discussing the significance of underlying principles...

3) *substantive interpretation or evaluation*

- a) achieved by clearly stating your appraisal of the view being explained, e.g., what you think the main concepts mean as well as what you find convincing or problematic about them, and
- b) by giving your own reasons supporting your appraisal of that view

Note: 1, 2, and 3 above are all interdependent aspects of the same creative process -- that of critical analysis and philosophical reflection. They are not meant to be done in isolation of each other.

MEANING OF SHORTHAND COMMENTS ON DRAFTS AND ESSAYS

W: wording

S: spelling

P: punctuation

R: redundant

N: number (e.g., singular subject repeated in the plural form)

T: transition

C: contradiction

CL: clarify

EX: explain, such as the significance of a passage; or explain main point in more depth

NAFS: not a full sentence

LED: lacks explanatory depth