

	A	B	C	D
PRECISION OF ARGUMENT	Concepts and terms well-defined; all steps of argument (premises, support, conclusions) clearly stated; justifications are on-point and well-argued; conclusion follows from premises (valid)	Some concepts and terms not clearly or well-defined; some hidden or inadequately supported premises; justifications could be stronger	Concepts and terms rarely defined; hidden or unsupported premises; weak justifications; premises not linked together to yield valid conclusion; inconsistent or incompatible views	Concepts and terms not recognized; minimal justifications; obvious contradictions
PHILOSOPHICAL SOPHISTICATION	Shows nuance and creativity; difficult or tricky problems addressed in clear and persuasive manner	Shows some nuance; difficult problems insufficiently addressed	No nuance present; difficult problems neglected	No nuance present; difficult problems neglected
KNOWLEDGE OF RELEVANT LITERATURE	Class materials used as appropriate; demonstrates knowledge of all relevant concepts and texts; extra research (if any) integrated into argument so as to bolster points, but this outside research does not overwhelm the essay	Class materials insufficiently used; misunderstood some concepts or lessons; extra research (if any) is either over-used or does not help argument	Important class materials neglected; misunderstood or neglected key concepts or lessons; extra research (if any) is used as “filler” and is irrelevant for argument	Class materials unused; misunderstood essay prompt and relevant lessons
OBJECTION AND RESPONSE (IF APPLICABLE)	Each objection contains a strong critique of main position by focusing on specific premise or reasoning used; response directly addresses given objection and enhances main argument	Objection is not persuasively or adequately argued; response addresses given objection, but it does not augment the main argument	Objection is a strawman or does not address specific premise or reasoning; response does not take objection seriously or merely reiterates prior statements	Objection and response are hardly argued and provide no depth to argument
ORGANIZATION	Structured argument with premises, support, and conclusion that are clearly identifiable; clear thesis statement	Can easily follow argument, but some premises, justifications, or conclusions are unstated or placed in such a way that it hurts the validity of the argument	Cannot easily follow argument; premises, support, or conclusions are not easily identifiable; thesis statement overly vague	No clear attempt at organization; no thesis statement
WRITING STYLE	Spelling and grammatical errors, if present, are not distracting; essay written in persuasive style without needless “fillers”; appropriate citations	Some unnecessary “fillers” that take up space but do not enhance argument	Spelling and grammatical errors are numerous and distracting; “fillers” and repetition take up a significant amount of space	Spelling and grammatical errors are numerous and distracting; paper is mostly off-topic

A ‘*strawman*’ objection is one in which the opposing view is caricatured or uncharitably interpreted so that it can be easily defeated.

‘F’ papers either a) were not turned in, b) do not follow instructions at all, or c) show no effort.