

Philosophy Class Assignment

Consider the three following questions:

- What is knowledge?
- What is the nature of reality?
- What is the good life, and how ought I live it?

These are the basic questions that were considered by the Ancient Greek Philosophers. They are also critical questions for our own lives today. As you have learned in the course, philosophical inquiry is fundamental to the human experience.

In this Touchstone, you will engage with the philosophical ideas presented in the course material. You will identify which of the above questions are associated with each branch of philosophy in a 1-2 page (300-600 words) essay.

Helpful Links:

- [Citation Help](#)
- [Academic Integrity Guidelines](#)
- [Ethical Standards and Appropriate Use of AI](#)

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A. Directions

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Step 1: Define Philosophy

First, use your reflection from Touchstone Task 1 to create a concrete definition of philosophy. Then, distinguish and define each of the three main branches of philosophy introduced in Challenge 1.1.

Note: For this Touchstone, you will submit a new essay that addresses the directions for Touchstone 1.1. Do NOT upload the Touchstone Task 1 worksheet that you completed earlier.

Your response for this section should be approximately 100-200 words. Make sure your information comes from the Sophia tutorials to support your response.

HINT

To build the skill of correctly citing your sources in academic writing, you should cite the Sophia tutorials you use to support your responses and include a reference page. Because all of your sources will be Sophia tutorials, the in-text and reference page citations will look like this:

- In-text citation: (Sophia Learning, n.d.)
- Reference: Sophia Learning. (n.d.). *Why Study Philosophy?* [Benefit to Society]. Ancient Greek Philosophers.
<https://app.sophia.org/tutorials/why-study-philosophy>

Adjust your reference page citations to identify the specific tutorials you are referencing. Visit the [Citation Help](#) resource for more assistance.

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Step 2: Connections and Differences

Next, identify which of the following questions align with the three branches of philosophy outlined in the course:

- What is knowledge?
- What is the nature of reality?
- What is the good life, and how ought I live it?

Then, explain the differences between the three branches of philosophy by applying a specific Greek philosopher to each branch and question, using cited examples from the course material. For example, explain how Socrates would answer the question "What is knowledge?" or how Epictetus would answer the question "What is the good life?"

Your response for this section should be approximately 200-400 words. Make sure you cite information from the Sophia tutorials to support your response in this section as well.

Step 3: Review Checklist

Refer to the checklist below throughout the writing process. Do not submit your Touchstone until it meets these guidelines.

1. Review Touchstone Task 1

- Did you review your reflection responses from Touchstone Task 1 to help create the definition of philosophy?

2. Definitions

- Have you defined philosophy and the three main branches of philosophy?
- Is this portion of the essay between 100-200 words?

3. Connections and Differences

- Have you identified which branch of philosophy corresponds with each of the three philosophical questions:

- What is knowledge?
- What is the nature of reality?
- What is the good life?

- Have you identified a specific Greek philosopher for each philosophical branch and explained the connection?
- Have you properly cited your examples from the course material to explain the differences between the three branches of philosophy?
- Is this portion of the essay between 200-400 words?

4. Conventions

- Have you proofread your essay for grammatical and mechanical errors?
- Have you used spell check or another method to check spelling?
- Have you cited information from the course using in-text citations? (Please do not include sources from outside of the course.)
- Have you included a reference page?

5. Before You Submit

- Have you included your name, date, and course at the top left of the page?
- Is your essay between 1-2 pages (approximately 300-600 words)?

B. Rubric

C. Requirements

The following requirements must be met for your submission to be graded:

- Composition must be 1-2 pages (approximately 300-600 words), double-spaced, with one-inch margins.
- Use a readable 12-point font.
- Composition must be original and written for this assignment, and all writing must be appropriate for an academic context.
- Plagiarism of any kind is strictly prohibited.
- Citations included only come from the course material. No outside sources are included.
- Submission must include your name, the name of the course, the date, and the title of your composition.
- Include all of the assignment components in a single .doc or .docx file.