

Term Paper Think Piece (PHIL 105W/205W)

due November 12

Good term papers don't happen overnight; they require extensive research, writing, and editing. And so, midway through this course you are to write a "think piece": a preliminary investigation into the idea you intend to explore further in your term paper. The purpose of this think piece is: (a) to give you a head-start on your term paper, so you're not rushing to put it all together last minute; and (b) to give you some early feedback on your ideas, so that you have some guidance on how to develop them in the weeks to come.

Guidelines

Your think piece should be **approximately 1000 words in length** (i.e., 4 double-spaced pages). It should read like the first 1000 words of a 3000- to 4000-word term paper, or like a standalone 1000-word essay which still leaves room for further expansion. **It should not be merely an outline of your term paper.** It should present an in-depth analysis of a specific example of shame, in support of an original thesis about the nature and/or moral significance of shame.

Your think piece should begin with a standard introduction, indicating the example you'll be discussing and the thesis you'll be putting forward. Following this, the bulk of your think piece should consist of your analysis of your example and defense of your thesis. At the end of your think piece (in the last 100 words or so), you should indicate where you want to go from here and how you intend to go about this (i.e., how you think your think piece can be turned into a term paper).

And remember: this is a think piece! You don't need to have every little thing worked out just yet. It is perfectly acceptable for your think piece to end in puzzlement, or skepticism, or frustration – just be sure to explain *why* you're puzzled

or skeptical or frustrated. Rest assured, I will help you find a way forward. And you'll have plenty of space in your term paper to make things better!

Formatting

Prepare your think piece for blind grading: the only piece of identifying information on your submission should be **your student number**. Please do not include your name, email, or any other identifying information.

Your think piece may be formatted however you wish, but please remember than it is going to be read by other humans (namely, me and your peer reviewer). A legible font, ample margins, and appropriate line spacing will all be appreciated.

Textual citations of Plato, Homer, or Sophocles should indicate the work title (in italics) and line number, as in “(*Phaedo* 100c)”. Citations of secondary literature should follow some standard citation style of your choosing.

Turning it in

Please submit your think piece, in PDF format, via Canvas by end of day on November 12 (or, for all your night owls, by 8 A.M. the following morning).

Late papers will be docked 5% for each 24 hour period between the due date and when they are handed in (unless accompanied by valid medical documentation). Late papers may be submitted up to 7 days after the due date; any papers not received by this time will automatically receive a 0.

Grading

Your think piece will be graded on quality of analysis, clarity of writing, cogency of argument, and originality. The grading rubric I will be using will be made available on the course website.

Also be aware that after your think piece is submitted to me, it will also be forwarded to one of your classmates, who will use your think piece as the subject of their peer review. (At the same time, you will receive another classmate's think piece and do the same.) All think pieces will be kept anonymous for the purposes of peer review, and peer reviewers will be randomly assigned.