

Term Paper Presentation

PHIL 194W

due March 13

Philosophy isn't all about making complicated arguments and subtle conceptual distinctions; it's also about learning how to communicate your ideas effectively to others. And so, in addition to writing a term paper for this class, you are to give a presentation to your peers summarizing your term paper's main ideas and conclusions. The purpose of this presentation is: (a) to give you some practice at communicating philosophical ideas in a condensed, digestible, and engaging manner; (b) to give you the opportunity to share your ideas with others, and to hear about theirs; and (c) to provide you with some more feedback on your ideas, before you finish your term paper.

Guidelines

The topic of your presentation should be the same as that of your term paper: some specific aspect of the relation between literature and the moral imagination, and be grounded in an analysis of a specific literary work.

The kind of presentation you give is up to you. Most straightforwardly, it can be a mini-lecture or slideshow presentation (in the manner of a TED Talk); alternatively, it can be a video, a short story, an animation, a skit, a song, a podcast, a comic strip, a website, a game, an app – almost anything really. Be creative!

Your presentation should accomplish three things: (1) introduce and explain the topic of your term paper; (2) present and motivate your thesis (i.e., explain why it's interesting and nonobvious); (3) present and explain how you will be supporting your thesis with your chosen literary work. (Your presentation may

go into other things, too, but these are the only essential ones.) Depending on the kind of presentation you give, how you accomplish these tasks will be more or less explicit and more or less direct. Again, you're encouraged to be creative!

Your presentation should be approximately 5 minutes in length, though this guideline will vary depending on the kind of presentation you're giving. If you have any questions about the expectations for the kind of presentation you've chosen, please just ask!

Turning it in

You will give your presentation, to me and your peers, in class on March 13. The order of presentations will be determined at the start of class.

If your presentation includes the use of any digital files – slides, videos, audio, etc. – please email those to me by noon of March 13, at williec@stanford.edu. (If your presentation includes the use of any *large* digital files, please send them to me via Box.) This will allow me to ensure that there are no (or at least fewer) technical hiccups during our presentation sessions.

Grading

Your presentation will be graded on how clearly and effectively it communicates your term paper's main ideas and conclusions, how engaging it is as a presentation, and how composed and effective you are as a speaker. The grading rubric I will be using will be made available on the course website.