

## Paper First Draft: Instructions

### *Topic Choices*

Choose one of the following three topics:

- (a) **Epicureanism:** Focusing primarily on §124–125 of the *Letter to Menoecus*, reconstruct and evaluate the Epicurean argument for why we should not fear our own death.
- (b) **Stoicism:** Focusing primarily on §1 of the *Encheiridion*, reconstruct and evaluate the Stoic argument for why we cannot be harmed by others.
- (c) **Scepticism:** Focusing primarily on 1.25–29 (Book I Chapter xii) of the *Outlines of Pyrrhonism*, reconstruct and evaluate the Sceptical argument for why the sceptic is free from disturbance.

### *Requirements & Structure*

Your paper should accomplish the following three things:

- (1) **Reconstruct the stated argument:** Your argument should be presented as a series of steps or premises, all of which “add up” to the specified conclusion. Your premises should be phrased as precisely as possible, and such as to be plausibly taken to entail the conclusion. You may present your argument either as a numbered “equation” or in full sentences, so long as each step of the argument is clearly distinguished.
- (2) **Establish the argument’s textual basis:** You must also demonstrate how each step of your reconstructed argument derives from remarks in the relevant primary source text. Your textual evidence should come primarily from the sections noted above, but you may (and in many cases will need to) draw on other parts of the text. In cases where your argument includes a premise that the author does not explicitly assert but is clearly assuming, make that clear. You may establish your argument’s textual basis either after you present your argument, as the next section of your paper; before you present your argument, as your paper’s first section; or as you present your argument, as a single incorporated section.
- (3) **Present an objection:** Lastly, target a specific point in your reconstructed argument as questionable. Explain clearly which point you’re calling into question and why you’re calling it into question. Your objection should ideally be both strong and convincing, making a powerful point against the argument and a persuasive case for that point.

Your paper need not do any more than these three things. In particular, you need not (and should not) include an introduction or conclusion.

### *Word Count*

Your paper may be no longer than 600 words in length. Include a word count at the start or end of your paper. You need only count the words that appear in the main text of your paper.

### *Blind Grading*

Include no identifying information whatsoever on your paper: not your name, not your UTORid, not even your student number. (Quercus will keep track of whose paper is whose.)

### *Assessment*

Your paper will be assessed along the following four dimensions:

- the clarity, precision, & plausibility of your reconstructed argument
- the clarity & accuracy with which you show how your argument derives from the text
- the clarity, strength, & persuasiveness of your objection
- the overall clarity & cleanness of your writing

See the “Paper First Draft: Qualitative Grading Rubric” for further details on these criteria.

### *Citations & Bibliography*

Primary source citations should reference the section number of the text – not the page number of your translation! In other words...

- For the *Letter to Menoceus*, cite the line/section number, as in “124”
- For *The Principal Doctrines*, cite the numeral of the doctrine, as in “XII”
- For the *Encheiridion*, cite the number of the remark, as in “1”
- For the *Outlines of Pyrrhonism*, cite the book number followed by a period followed by the line/section number, as in “1.25”

Your citations can be done either as sentence-final parentheticals or within the main text, as so:

- As Epicurus writes, “Death is nothing to us” (124).
- In §124, Epicurus writes, “Death is nothing to us.”

You should state the title of the work you are referencing before or along with your first citation, but you do not need to include the title in each subsequent citation.

In addition, at the end of your paper include a bibliography providing a full citation of the translation you’ve used. Your citation may follow any standard citation style (e.g., APA, MLA).