

Paper Final Draft: Instructions

Topic Choices

Your topic choices are the same as in the first draft. 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 five things:

- (1) **Reconstruct the stated argument:** [Same as in the first draft]
- (2) **Establish the argument's textual basis:** [Same as in the first draft]
- (3) **Present an objection:** [Same as in the first draft]
- (4) **Present a response to your objection:** Reply to your objection on behalf of the author or philosophical school you're discussing. Explain clearly which point in your objection the author/school would contest and why they would contest it. Ground your response in the explicit views of the author/school, providing direct textual evidence wherever possible.
- (5) **Evaluate the status of the original argument:** In light of the points raised in (3) and (4), explain what you take the status of the original argument presented in (1) to be. Ask yourself: Does the response presented in (4) effectively disarm the objection presented in (3)? Or can the objection be defended against the response? Or can the objection and response be reconciled? And in light of your answer to these questions, does the original argument now stand wholly refuted? Or can it be suitably revised? Should we believe the argument's conclusion or not? (You need not address all of these questions in this section; this list is intended merely to give you a sense of the sort of thing you should be doing.)

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

Word Count

Your paper may be no longer than 1000 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 six 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 clarity, accuracy, & persuasiveness of your response to your objection
- the clarity & insight of your ultimate evaluation
- the overall clarity & cleanness of your writing

See the “Paper Final 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! Your citations can be done either as sentence-final parentheticals or within the main text. Refer to the Paper First Draft instructions for examples of how to do this.

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).