

Term Paper: Presentation

Overview

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 hand in your term paper.

Guidelines

The topic of your presentation should be the same as that of your term paper: what a particular literary work tells us about a particular philosophical topic.

Your presentation should be between **4:30 and 5:00 minutes** in length. I will be timing you, and part of your grade will be determined by whether your presentation stays within this timeframe.

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 could 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 your chosen philosophical topic and explain why it's interesting
- (2) Introduce your chosen literary work and explain what you think it tells us about your philosophical topic
- (3) Show how you will be defending your thesis by presenting a specific example from your literary work that supports your view about what the work tells us about its topic

Your presentation may go into other things, too, but these are the only essential components. 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!

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 one of our last four class meetings. The specific date of your presentation will be arranged in advance, with your consultation. The order of each day's presentations will be determined at the start of class.

If your presentation includes the use of any digital files, please email those to me by 5:00 p.m. on the day of your presentation, at willie.costello@mail.utoronto.ca. This will allow me to ensure that there are no (or at least fewer) technical hiccups during our presentation sessions. If your presentation includes the use of any large digital files, please bring those in on a flash drive and arrive well before the start of class, so I can copy them onto my computer.

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.