

I. What your final paper should look like

1. Start off by setting out the question. In the first paragraph, raise the question you are going to answer. Get right to the point.
2. Tell your reader where you're going. Somewhere near the beginning of the paper – in the first or second paragraph – lay out a map for the paper. For example:

“In this paper, I will argue that _____. I will start by considering X's claim that _____, and then raise two objections to it. I will conclude that _____.”

Your paper should have a thesis. Write it out in one clear, succinct sentence.

3. In the body of the paper:
 - First explain Mill's view (like you did on the quiz).
 - Then consider one or two objections, and think about how Mill would reply.
4. Provide a roadmap along the way. In each section, remind the reader what you're accomplishing in that section. Hit the reader over the head with it!
5. Sum it all up at the end. In your conclusion, say exactly what you have argued for. (Don't worry about making connections to topics outside of philosophy.)
6. Cite your sources.

II. What we look for when grading

1. Clarity: write in a clear and understandable way. (Don't worry about flowery language.)
2. Accuracy: show that you understand the position you are discussing; consider relevant objections.
3. Original thought: engage with the material in a thoughtful, original way.
 - Try to push an argument farther than we did in lecture. How could someone respond to Mill? What might be the next step in the debate?
 - This is hard to aim for; usually, good original thoughts will not occur to you unless you have clearly understood the topic and worked hard to articulate it in your paper.

A-range papers tend to accomplish (1), (2), and (3) well.

B-range papers tend to accomplish (1) and (2) well, but with some minor problems; they may make some minor errors or have some unclear points.

C-range papers tend to have serious problems with (1) or (2) – they are very unclear, or misstate the views that they are discussing.

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