

Draft criteria for good writing— Philosophy

1. **Essay demonstrates an understanding of the material:** The student has correctly grasped a philosophical problem or question, has explained it accurately, and on the basis of a substantially correct interpretation of any texts involved. Key terms are used correctly. The essay shows evidence of the student's independent thought, and is written in her distinctive voice. Quotations are used, when appropriate, to support the writer's analysis, and an explanation is offered for each quotation.

More than acceptable \_\_\_\_\_ Acceptable \_\_\_\_\_ Less than acceptable \_\_\_\_\_

2. **Essay has clear and coherent argument:** There is a clearly stated thesis, and support for this thesis in the body of the paper. Each paragraph contributes to this argument, and follows logically from the paragraph before it. The argument presented is persuasive.

More than acceptable \_\_\_\_\_ Acceptable \_\_\_\_\_ - Less than acceptable \_\_\_\_\_ -

3. **Essay fulfills assigned task:** The essay addresses the entire assigned question or topic, elaborating on important ideas in satisfactory depth, but without bringing in anything extraneous or irrelevant. The introduction of the essay focuses and provides clarity for the paper. Important terms are clearly and accurately defined. Each paragraph conveys a coherent, organized thought.

More than acceptable \_\_\_\_\_ Acceptable \_\_\_\_\_ Less than acceptable \_\_\_\_\_

4. **Essay obeys standards for good persuasive writing:** The writer shows that he is comfortable using philosophical language, and the prose is clear, not awkward. The structure of the sentences reflects the relationships between/ among the ideas discussed.

More than acceptable \_\_\_\_\_ Acceptable \_\_\_\_\_ Less than  
acceptable \_\_\_\_\_

5. **Essay is technically correct:** The essay has been carefully and thoughtfully proofread. The argument is written in complete sentences, with punctuation that does not mislead the reader. There are few or no mistakes in spelling, grammar, word choice, and punctuation.

More than acceptable \_\_\_\_\_ Acceptable \_\_\_\_\_ Less than  
acceptable \_\_\_\_\_