

Grading criteria

Structure

1. The introduction contains a statement of the claim/aim of the essay
2. The introduction contains a summary of the structure of the essay.
3. The essay has a clear and logical structure.
4. The thread of the argument is transparent and easy to follow.
5. The argument is fully developed in the body of the essay. The conclusion does not contain any key elements of the main argument.

Content

1. The essay topic is neither too broad nor too narrow.
2. The essay defends a philosophical claim. It does not just offer a neutral summary of other people's views, nor does it defend a non-philosophical (e.g. empirical) claim.
3. The claim defended in the essay is interesting.
4. The essay is focused. It does not attempt to address multiple questions at once.
5. The argument developed in the essay is nuanced and compelling. Possible objections are anticipated and addressed.
6. The argument is presented in a logical and transparent manner.
7. The interpretation of the views and arguments of other philosophers is accurate and charitable.

Use of academic literature

8. The essay draws on and engages with relevant academic literature.
9. A scholarly citation style is correctly and consistently applied.
10. The essay contains a complete and correct list of references.
11. The essay does not contain any plagiarism.

Language and formatting

12. The essay is written in lucid and to-the-point academic prose.
13. Grammar and spelling are correct. (Will be less strictly applied to non-native speakers)
14. The formatting is neat and consistent.

Formalities

15. The word limit is observed.
16. The essay is submitted by the indicated deadline.

COMMENTS

Grading is not an exercise in arithmetic. The above criteria are the ones that I consider when grading. But the overall grade will not be the average of some score for each individual criterion.

Some of the criteria are more important than others. For instance, content is more important than language and formatting. **If you plagiarize, you fail. No exceptions.** On plagiarism, see the UU policy:

<https://students.uu.nl/en/practical-information/policies-and-procedures/fraud-and-plagiarism>