

HZT 4U

SUMMATIVE PERSUASIVE ESSAY: WHAT IS HAPPINESS AND HOW IS IT ACHIEVED?

The way we answer certain philosophical questions can have a dramatic impact on how we live our lives and on how we view ourselves in this world. One such question that has been tackled by many philosophers over many years concerns the topic of happiness. What does it mean to be happy? How is happiness achieved? Your task is to prepare a persuasive essay on these questions.

In your essay, outline how three different philosophers might address or have addressed these questions. (KNOWLEDGE)

Make connections to each of the four units we have studied in this course. That is, discuss how reason and logic, metaphysical theories, ethical principles, and social and political philosophy may play a vital role in happiness. (THINKING)

Conclude by analyzing what the different philosophers have argued (assess their relative strengths and weaknesses). Also, taking into account your connections with the units in the course, discuss what happiness means to you and how you think happiness can be achieved. You are to come to a well reasoned, definitive conclusion. Finally, outline the implications of your conclusion on how you live your everyday life. In other words, explain whether or not your answer to the question "what does it mean to be happy?" makes any difference in your everyday life. What do you need to do to achieve happiness in your life? (APPLICATION)

Your paper should use proper sentence and paragraph structure. You must have a thesis in the introductory paragraph, which is reiterated in a different way in the concluding paragraph. The body of your essay may contain as many paragraphs as necessary to make your points. Use proper citations throughout using MLA format. (COMMUNICATION)

Your reflective paper should not exceed five pages, double-spaced. It is worth 80 marks. Use the attached rubric for guidance on the evaluation criteria, and staple it to your final copy.

You will also be required to present your paper to the class in a 15 minute presentation worth 16 marks. Refer to the attached rubric for further guidance.

Important Dates:

Fri. Dec. 15 Last day to submit names of the three philosophers

Fri. Dec. 15 Submit draft arguments of the three philosophers

Tues. Dec. 19 Submit draft connections to units of course

Dec. 19 - 22 Conferences to discuss analysis and your opinion

Tues. Jan. 9 Final copy due and presentations begin;
submit the following on this day:

- Title page
- Previously evaluated draft arguments and connections
- Notes and articles from your research
- Persuasive essay rubric
- Oral presentation rubric
- Evaluation summary sheet (this sheet)
- Works Cited List

Evaluation Summary

Student: _____

Draft summary of philosopher's arguments	/2
Draft summary of connections to units in course	/2
Persuasive Essay	/80
Presentation	/16

Total	/100

Persuasive Essay Rubric

Student: _____

Categories	Level 1 (50-59%)	Level 2 (60-69%)	Level 3 (70-79%)	Level 4 (80-100%)
Knowledge/ Understanding /20	- shows limited understanding of the issues, variety of points of view, and contradictory opinions	- shows some understanding of the issues, variety of points of view, and contradictory opinions	- shows considerable understanding of the issues, variety of points of view, and contradictory opinions	- shows thorough and insightful understanding of the issues, variety of points of view, and contradictory opinions
Thinking/ Inquiry /20	- explains and analyses the various points of view with limited effectiveness - provides limited supporting evidence	- explains and analyses the various points of view with some effectiveness - provides some supporting evidence	- explains and analyses the various points of view with considerable effectiveness - provides considerable supporting evidence	- explains and analyses the various points of view with thorough insight - provides extensive supporting evidence
Communication /20	- shows limited command of the essay form and logical organization - frequent spelling/ grammatical errors - mostly incorrect citations and bibliography	- shows some command of the essay form and logical organization - some spelling/ grammatical errors - partially incorrect citations and bibliography	- shows considerable command of the essay form and logical organization - few spelling/ grammatical errors - mostly correct citations and bibliography	- shows expert command of the essay form and logical organization - no spelling/ grammatical errors - correct citations and bibliography
Application /20	- conclusions, predictions, and/or connections were made with limited clarity and logic	- conclusions, predictions, and/or connections were made with some clarity and logic	- conclusions, predictions, and/or connections were made with considerable clarity & logic	- conclusions, predictions, and/or connections were made with a high degree of clarity & logic

Total Mark:

/80

Oral Presentation Rubric

Student: _____

Categories	Below Level 1 0 - 1	Level 1 2	Level 2 2.5	Level 3 3	Level 4 3.5 - 4
Knowledge/ Understanding /4	Presentation demonstrated very little or no knowledge of facts, terms, concepts, principles, and theories	Presentation demonstrated poor knowledge of facts, terms, concepts, principles, and theories	Presentation demonstrated some knowledge of facts, terms, concepts, principles, and theories	Presentation demonstrated considerable knowledge of facts, terms, concepts, principles, and theories	Presentation demonstrated thorough knowledge of facts, terms, concepts, principles, and theories
Thinking/ Inquiry /4	No evidence of critical thinking skills applied in responding to questions from teacher and/or class	Very little evidence of critical thinking skills applied in responding to questions from teacher and/or class	Some evidence of critical thinking skills applied in responding to questions from teacher and/or class	Considerable evidence of critical thinking skills applied in responding to questions from teacher and/or class	Extensive evidence of critical thinking skills applied in responding to questions from teacher and/or class
Communication /4	Language and/or delivery resulted in information being communicated orally with no effectiveness	Language and/or delivery resulted in information being communicated orally with limited effectiveness	Language and/or delivery resulted in information being communicated orally with some effectiveness	Language and/or delivery resulted in information being communicated orally with considerable effectiveness	Language and/or delivery resulted in information being communicated orally with a great degree of effectiveness
Application /4	No evidence of organization and the presentation did not generate participation by and/or interest from other members of the class	Very little evidence of organization and the presentation generated very little participation by and/or interest from other members of the class	Some evidence of organization and the presentation generated some participation by and/or interest from other members of the class	Considerable evidence of organization and the presentation generated considerable participation by and/or interest from other members of the class	Extensive evidence of organization and the presentation generated extensive participation by and/or interest from other members of the class

Total Mark: /16