



Ready



Submitted



Graded

You can work on a Touchstone whenever you want, but you must complete the previous assessments in the Unit before you can submit it.

SUBMIT TOUCHSTONE

ⓘ It's Fourth of July Weekend in the U.S., and grading turnaround times may be slightly longer than usual (3-5 business days). We appreciate your understanding.

Touchstones are projects that illustrate your comprehension of the course material, help you refine skills, and demonstrate the application of knowledge. You can work on a Touchstone anytime, but you can't submit it until you have completed the unit's Milestone. Once you've submitted a Touchstone, it will be graded and counted toward your final course score.

Touchstone 1.1: Philosophical Thinking

ASSIGNMENT: In Touchstone Task 1, you answered four reflection questions regarding philosophy. Now, take those reflections and apply them to this concrete, graded Touchstone assignment.

Consider the three following questions:

- What is knowledge?
- What is the nature of reality?
- What is the good life, and how ought I live it?

These are the basic questions that were considered by the Ancient Greek Philosophers. They are also critical questions for our own lives today. As you have learned in the course, philosophical inquiry is fundamental to the human experience.

In this Touchstone, you will engage with the philosophical ideas presented in the course material. You will identify which of the above questions are associated with each branch of philosophy in a 1-2 page (300-600 words) essay.

In order to foster learning and growth, all work you submit must be newly written specifically for this course. Any plagiarized or recycled work will result in a Plagiarism Detected alert. Review [Touchstones: Academic Integrity Guidelines](#) for more about plagiarism and the Plagiarism Detected alert. For guidance on the use of generative AI technology, review [Ethical Standards and Appropriate Use of AI](#).

A. Directions

Step 1: Define Philosophy

For this graded Touchstone, think back to the reflection questions from Touchstone Task 1. Now, use your reflection to create a concrete definition of philosophy. Then, distinguish and define each of the three main branches of philosophy introduced in Challenge 1.1.

Your response should be approximately 100-200 words.

Make sure your information and citations come from the Sophia tutorials to support your response. When citing material from a tutorial, please include the name of the lesson and use the following format for in-text citations:

⇒ **EXAMPLE** (Aristotle’s Highest Good, n.d.)

⇒ **EXAMPLE** (The Footnotes to Plato, n.d.)

Please note these are examples only. You will have to adjust the citation based on the specific part of the tutorial you are referencing.

Step 2: Connections and Differences

First, identify which of the following questions align with the three branches of philosophy outlined in the course:

- What is knowledge?
- What is the nature of reality?
- What is the good life, and how ought I live it?

Second, explain the differences between the three branches of philosophy by applying a specific Greek philosopher to each branch and question, using cited examples from the course material. For example, explain how Socrates would answer the question “What is knowledge?” or how Epictetus would answer the question “What is the good life?”

Your response should be approximately 200-400 words.

Make sure your information and citations come from the Sophia tutorials to support your response. When citing material from a tutorial, please include the name of the lesson and use the following format for in-text citations:

⇒ **EXAMPLE** (Aristotle’s Highest Good, n.d.)

↪ **EXAMPLE** (The Footnotes to Plato, n.d.)

Please note these are examples only. You will have to adjust the citation based on the specific part of the tutorial you are referencing.



For this Touchstone, you will submit a new essay that addresses the directions for Touchstone 1.1. Do NOT upload the Touchstone Task 1 worksheet that you completed earlier.

Step 3: Review Checklist

Refer to the checklist below throughout the writing process. Do not submit your Touchstone until it meets these guidelines.

1. Review Touchstone Task 1

☐ Did you review your reflection responses from Touchstone Task 1 to help create the definition of philosophy?

2. Definitions

☐ Have you defined philosophy and the three main branches of philosophy?

☐ Is this portion of the essay between 100-200 words?

3. Connections and Differences

☐ Have you identified which branch of philosophy corresponds with each of the three philosophical questions:

- What is knowledge?
- What is the nature of reality?
- What is the good life?

☐ Have you identified a specific Greek philosopher for each philosophical branch and explained the connection?

☐ Have you properly cited your examples from the course material to explain the differences between the three branches of philosophy?

☐ Is this portion of the essay between 200-400 words?

4. Conventions

☐ Have you proofread your essay for grammatical and mechanical errors?

☐ Have you used spell check or another method to check spelling?

☐ Have you cited examples from the course using the in-text citation instructions? (Please do not include sources from outside of the course.)

5. Before You Submit

- ☐ Have you included your name, date, and course at the top left of the page?
- ☐ Is your essay between 1-2 pages (approximately 300-600 words)?

B. Rubric

	Advanced (100%)	Proficient (85%)	Acceptable (75%)	Needs Improvement (50%)
Definitions Clearly define philosophy and the three main branches of philosophy covered in Challenge 1.1. Any citations used must refer to the course material. (No outside sources.) (30%)	Submission clearly and accurately defines philosophy and the three main branches of philosophy. The explanations include substantial detail.	Submission accurately defines philosophy and the three main branches. More detailed definitions could be provided, or minor inaccuracies may be present.	Submission defines philosophy and at least two of the main branches. Inaccuracies may be present.	Submission attempts to define philosophy and at least one of the main branches. Inaccuracies may be present.
Connections Identify a specific Greek philosopher for each philosophical branch. Ensure that the correct philosophical question is matched to the appropriate branch of philosophy. Any citations used must refer to the course material. (No outside sources.) (20%)	Submission clearly and accurately applies a specific Greek philosopher to each philosophical branch and matches each branch to the correct philosophical question.	Submission accurately applies a specific Greek philosopher to each philosophical branch and matches each branch to the correct philosophical question. More detailed connections could be provided, or minor inaccuracies may be present.	Submission applies a specific Greek philosopher to at least two of the main philosophical branches and matches at least two branches to the correct philosophical questions. More detail is needed, or inaccuracies may be present.	Submission applies a specific Greek philosopher to at least one of the main philosophical branches and matches at least one branch to the correct philosophical question. The section attempts to address the rubric component but may contain inaccuracies or lack detail.
Differences and Use of Evidence Explain the differences between the three branches of philosophy using specific examples from the course. Citations must be used and must refer to a specific course tutorial. (No outside sources.) (40%)	Submission clearly and accurately explains the differences between the three branches of philosophy using specific examples from the course. Citations are accurate and refer to specific course material.	Submission accurately explains the differences between each of the three branches of philosophy using specific examples from the course. Minor inaccuracies may be present. Citations are accurate and refer to specific course material.	Submission explains the differences between each of the three branches of philosophy; however, specific examples are missing for one or two branches; or philosophical inaccuracies are present. Citations are accurate and refer to specific course material.	Submission attempts to explain the differences between each of the three branches of philosophy; however, specific examples from the course are missing. Citations are missing or refer to outside sources.

	Advanced (100%)	Proficient (85%)	Acceptable (75%)	Needs Improvement (50%)
Conventions Submission follows conventions for standard written English and meets requirements. (10%)	There are almost no errors in grammar, punctuation, spelling, and capitalization; all length and formatting requirements are met.	There are minor errors in grammar, punctuation, spelling, and capitalization that do not impede readability; length and formatting requirements are nearly met.	There are frequent errors in grammar, punctuation, spelling, and capitalization that somewhat impede readability; length and formatting requirements are nearly met.	There are consistent errors in grammar, punctuation, spelling, and capitalization that significantly impede readability; length and formatting requirements are not met.

C. Requirements

The following requirements must be met for your submission to be graded:

- Composition must be 1-2 pages (approximately 300-600 words), double-spaced, with one-inch margins.
- Use a readable 12-point font.
- Composition must be original and written for this assignment, and all writing must be appropriate for an academic context.
- Plagiarism of any kind is strictly prohibited.
- Citations included only come from the course material. No outside sources are included.
- In-text citations should use this style: (Aristotle’s Highest Good, n.d.).
- Submission must include your name, the name of the course, the date, and the title of your composition.
- Include all of the assignment components in a single .doc or .docx file.



