

PL 340

Long Paper assignment

First long paper due before Christmas recess

1. Papers should be 6-8 pages long (assuming something like 300 words per page).
2. In the papers, students will make and defend some significant claim about the text. In defending such a claim, one must rely in part on references to and quotations from the text, as well as on one's own reasoning.
3. Grades will reflect how well a claim has been both presented and supported. In supporting your claim, you should also consider and respond to objections to your interpretation/evaluation. (See reverse for (a bit) more detail.)
4. The claim made might, among other things, involve
 - a. offering an interpretation of a particularly difficult part of the text or
 - b. evaluating the success of some important argument in the text.
5. In quoting or paraphrasing the *Sophist*, please refer to the Stephanus page numbers. Parenthetical citation is recommend; for example:

The Visitor asserts that the people he calls “friends of the forms” “distinguish coming-to-be and being and say that they are separate” (248a).

6. Please do not consult outside sources concerning the *Sophist*.

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rough outline of grading standards

essays:

A	reasoned evaluation, i.e. defense of own view, plus detailed discussion of support and criticisms of relevant conclusion
B	detailed discussion of support, along with discussion of relevant criticism of relevant conclusion or, reasoned evaluation plus flawed discussion of support and criticism of relevant argument or, reasoned evaluation plus discussion of support and criticism of irrelevant argument
C	correct representation of thinker's main support for relevant conclusion or, correct representation of irrelevant argument, along with discussion of criticism or, flawed representation of support and criticism of relevant conclusion
D	correct identification of thinker's relevant conclusion or, flawed representation of support and criticism of irrelevant conclusion

short response papers:

5/5	response to section of reading, plus attempt to characterize thinker's support for some claim
4/5	attempt to characterize thinker's support for some claim or, response and attempted characterization of wrong material
3/5	none of the above or, attempted characterization of wrong material