

**WRITING ASSIGNMENT I**  
Very Short Essay: 5% of your final grade

**Due Date**  
11:59 PM, Sunday, October 13, 2019  
Papers must be turned in to Turnitin.com.

**Topic & Structure**

What was Descartes' view of the relationship between soul and body? What was the challenge that Princess Elisabeth posed for this view? This writing assignment is an opportunity for you to test your understanding of these ideas. Be as clear and precise as you possibly can.

Your assignment is to write an essay of no more than 250 words (approximately 3/4 page), which consists of three paragraphs—no more, no less. The following table gives the outline which you must follow. The percentages indicate the relative importance of each paragraph (which we'll also use when grading the papers).

Paragraph 1.	In a few sentences (4 or less) describe what you will do in the rest of this short essay—try to be descriptive but succinct.	10%
Paragraph 2.	Describe Descartes' views on the relationship between soul and body, including his position on whether they are distinct, how they differ, and how they interact through downward and upward causation. Provide a specific example to illustrate your explanation, a different example from one introduced in class. (It is <u>not</u> necessary to give Descartes' arguments or justifications for his views.)	45%
Paragraph 3.	Explain Princess Elisabeth's objection to Descartes' views about the relationship between soul and body. Explain how her objection applies to the example you provided above.	45%

NOTE: Your job is not to evaluate the overall merits of any of the above claims. Your job is to explain what they mean and how they are interrelated.

**Writing Constraints**

- The paper should be submitted anonymously. Do NOT include your name.  
DQ include your student ID #.
- The paper must be no more than 250 words. (Use the “word count” function in your word-processor.) Title, citations, and bibliography do not count towards the word limit.
- **NO SENTENCE MAY BE LONGER THAN 16 WORDS!!!** Phrases connected by a semicolon, colon, or comma still count as one sentence. This tool may be useful: <https://leviroth.github.io/burgeinator/>.
- The paper must be double spaced.
- The font size must be 12 point.

**Evaluation**

Your paper will be graded along four dimensions:

- (1) **Understanding.** Have you correctly described the views and claims at issue? Have you done so without mixing in your own opinion?
- (2) **Clarity & Precision.** Have you expressed yourself in a way that is both clear and precise? Have you avoided ambiguity and merely suggestive language?
- (3) **Dialectic.** Do you understand how the various claims interact logically? Do you understand why some are compatible and others are not? Does your assessment of the claims make sense?
- (4) **Writing policies.** Have you followed the citation and quotation policy? Are your sentences really under 16 words long?

**Quotation Policy**

- (1) Do not quote any source, with the following exceptions:
  - a. Boxed definitions from the handout. But do not quote the “core idea” text,
  - b. Individual words or terms used by an author.
- (2) Instead of quoting, describe the author’s position in your own words.
- (3) Remember that word-for-word paraphrase is a form of plagiarism, so when you describe someone’s view, use your own phrasing. (Ask your TA if you aren’t sure what a word-for-word paraphrase is.)

**Citation Policy**

- (1) Use at least two readings as sources for your discussion.
- (2) Ideally you should not use external sources. If you must, they of course must be cited properly.
- (3) If you quote material from handouts, you must include a citation and bibliography entry.
- (4) Otherwise, you can use ideas (but not exact phrases) from handouts and lecture without citation.
- (5) Do cite all readings (or external sources) which you use, in the following way: at the end of the series of sentences in which you make reference to that reading write (Author Date, Page) e.g. “(Huxley 1874, p.13)”.
- (6) Any sources that are cited in the text must be listed in the bibliography. Any readable and complete bibliography style is acceptable.