

## "My philosophy" essay grading

### points

7 The student takes a stand on an important philosophical issue related to argument, and presents at least three basic arguments for it. The student maintains his/her stand throughout the essay—he/she doesn't contradict him/herself. The arguments are CLEAR and have at least some SUPPORT, drawn from personal experience and common-sense knowledge ("street smarts"). The essay is well enough written not to be distracting.

8 All of the above, plus: The student's stand is personal—the author is clearly committed to what he/she is writing. The arguments have good SUPPORT, drawn from personal experience and common-sense knowledge ("street smarts"). Alternative positions on in the issue—i.e., the *other* sides—are recognized and summarized accurately. The essay shows the author's pride in her work in its lack of errors and good writing.

9 All of the above, plus: The arguments are very well developed with good, detailed SUPPORT that answers all the reader's doubts and objections. The arguments not only have "street smarts," they are drawn from or inspired by the class readings and discussions ("school smarts"). Alternative positions on the issue are not only recognized, but argued against with good arguments.

10 All of the above, plus: The essay is written with passion in a distinct, personal voice. The reader can tell who wrote it, even without looking at the name.

6 There is a significant problem with the essay, including any of the following:

- failure to address an important philosophical issue
- lack of a clear, consistent stand on the issue
- arguments not CLEAR
- arguments lacking SUPPORT
- less than three arguments
- poor writing that makes the paper difficult to comprehend

0-5 There are multiple significant problems with the essay, or no essay is handed in.