Philosophy Department Critical thinking rubric

This is one part of a larger rubric that we use to evaluate argumentative essays. In addition to evaluating argument, shown here, we also evaluate exposition, organization, and writing using the same 0-4 scale.

March 28, 2014

Argument

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| An Exemplary Paper | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | An Unsatisfactory Paper |
| Presents strong and well-developed arguments in support of its central claims |  |  |  |  |  | Fails to adequately defend its central claims |
| Acknowledges and supports other controversial claims asserted and/or relied upon in the paper |  |  |  |  |  | Treats controversial claims as needing no support |
| Presents any relevant objections and counterarguments to its central claims and arguments |  |  |  |  |  | Fails to present objections or counterarguments to its central claims and arguments |
| Offers strong arguments to defuse objections and counterarguments to central claims and arguments |  |  |  |  |  | Does not respond adequately to objections and counterarguments to central claims and arguments |
| Is subtle, original, and/or insightful |  |  |  |  |  | Is trite, trivial, or unoriginal |