

Phil 161

Assignment 1: Short illustrated paper

Submission guidelines and AI use

- All assignments must be composed in Google Docs.
 - All assignments must be submitted as Google Doc URLs.
 - Before submitting, click the **Share** button (top right of the document)
 - Under "General access," change "Restricted" to "**Anyone with the link**" and set the permission to "**Commenter**"
 - Copy the link and submit it through Bruinlearn.
 - You may not use AI for text generation.
 - You may not use AI for idea generation.
 - You can use AI for consultation, learning, and clarification.
 - Strong recommendation: if you are going to use AI, use Anthropic's Claude.
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Part 1: Topic and outline [DUE FEB 1]

- 10% of your final grade.

Requirements

- 1-2 pages, including:
 - short paragraph describing your topic
 - proposed outline for your paper
 - 2 images illustrations
 - Due date: Sunday, 2.1, 11:59PM
 - Delivery: Googledoc URL to Bruinlearn
 - Include your UID.
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Part 2: Illustrated paper [DUE FEB 8]

- 25% of your final grade.

Requirements

- Length: 1200-1500 words [~3-5 pages of text] (not shorter, not longer)
- **Two** images must be included inline.
- Due date: Sunday 2.8, 11:59 PM
- Delivery: Google Doc URL to Bruinlearn
- Papers should include your UID.

A1 writing guidelines

Scope

- The purpose of this assignment is to deepen your understanding of material we have covered in class.
- Do not do outside research; use the readings from class.

Topic

- Pick one article that we've read as your **target article**.
- Pick one **target idea** from that article.
 - *Tip:* pick the article and idea you found most interesting, personally.
- Possible ideas include, but are not limited to...
 - Gibson on the function of pictures.
 - Gibson on pictorial fidelity.
 - Goodman against resemblance.
 - Goodman on convention and culture.
 - Wollheim on seeing-in / two-foldedness.
 - Wollheim on standards of correctness.
 - Neander on restricted resemblance.
 - Neander on pictorial style.
 - Greenberg on geometrical projection.
 - Greenberg on systems of depiction.
 - Etc.

Exposition (~2.5 pages)

- Begin your paper by explaining the target idea carefully and slowly.
- Explain key terms and their relationships.
- Be as clear and precise as possible; make sure your writing is internally consistent.
- Give examples of what's included and what's excluded.
 - An inclusion example illustrates what is included by an idea (or theory).
 - An exclusion example illustrates what is excluded by an idea (or theory)--- this is not necessarily a counter-example.
 - E.g. if I say that "pictures are always flat surfaces", then a photograph is an inclusion example, and a sculpture is an exclusion example.

- Don't just present examples, *discuss them*. Explain *why* they are examples.

Complication (~2.5 pages)

- Finally consider one challenge, complication for that idea, or something that is missing from the idea.
 - An image, set of images, principle, or idea, that doesn't seem to fit with the target idea.
 - Look at the readings by Neander, Wollheim, Goodman, Greenberg for examples.
 - Or find an example of your own.
- Provide an example or two to illustrate or explain this complication.
- Then consider the implications of this challenge, being sure to address the following questions:
 - How would the target author respond?
 - Is this response adequate?
 - What general lesson do *you* draw about pictures, that can you extract from this discussion?

Thesis

- Your paper should have a clear thesis, which you should state in the first paragraph, and re-state, citing your discussion, in the last paragraph.
- E.g. "The thesis of this paper is that Gibson's optical theory of depiction fails when it comes to black and white photographs." or "The thesis of this paper is that Gibson's optical theory of depiction can be extended to cover cases of black and white photographs, despite some challenges."

Bibliography and citation

- You must cite all sources you use. (This rule takes priority over the rule that you shouldn't use outside sources.)
- When you cite a source, you include an inline citation and a bibliography entry.
- The inline citation looks a bit like this: "(Gibson 1968)"
- The bibliography entry looks a bit like this: "Gibson, James J. "Pictures, perspective, and perception." *Daedalus* 89.1 (1960): 216-227."
- I don't care what format you use as long as it is clear and consistent. Get help from Google Scholar and Claude.

General writing guidelines

- Check out the Pink Guide to Philosophy for writing tips:
<https://sites.google.com/wellesley.edu/the-pink-guide-to-philosophy/home>
- Prioritize clarity, precision, and consistency.
- Don't worry about elegance, flow, or formality.
- Feel free to say "I" (and anything else that helps with clarity).
- Feel free to introduce section headings, numbering, bullet-points, diagrams, or images.
- This should read more like a car manual, and less like a novel.
- A good way to start your paper is: "In this paper I argue..."