

Interesting Things That Plato Wrote (According to Dr. Dave Yount)

On the Form of the Good:

- [On the Importance of Knowing the Form of the Good](#) (from *Republic* VI)
- [The Sun Simile](#) (One of the ultimate expressions of Plato's metaphysics and epistemology; from *Republic* VI)
- [The Divided Line Analogy](#) (Another of the ultimate expressions of Plato's metaphysics and epistemology; from *Republic* VI)
- [The Allegory of the Cave](#) (Plato's famous allegory where he likens us to prisoners who need to ascend to the vision of the Good; from *Republic* VII)
- Diagrams of [Plato's Sun Simile and Divided Line Analogy](#)
- [On Dialectic](#) (The most important study, according to Plato; from *Republic* VII)

On the Form of Beauty, on Poetry, and on Music:

- [How to know the Form of Beauty](#) (The famous "Ladder of Love" passage from the *Symposium*)
- [On the Soul's Recollecting True Being and Beauty](#) (from the *Phaedrus*)
- [Why Imitation is Possibly Harmful, on Comedy, and on delighting in Others' Misfortunes](#) (Why watching some comedies may be bad for you ...; from *Republic* III, X, and *Philebus*)
- [On the Best and Worst Music](#) (Which modes - Phrygian, Dorian, Lydian, etc. - are good and which are bad, according to Plato; from *Republic* III)
- [What poetry Plato allows in his ideal state/kallipolis](#) (*Republic* X)

On the Forms in General:

- [What Forms are There?](#) My list of Forms from Plato's Dialogues (and elsewhere)
- [Arguments for the Forms I: The Argument from Relatives I](#) (*Cratylus* 385e-386e)
- [Arguments for the Forms II: The Argument from Recollection/Rationalism](#) (*Phaedo* 74a-76a)
- [Arguments for the Forms III: The Argument from Opposites](#) (*Republic* V 478e-479d)
- [Arguments for the Forms IV: The Argument from Relatives II: The "Finger" Passage](#) (*Republic* VI 523a-525a)
- [Arguments for the Forms V: The Argument from Thought/Dialectic](#) (*Parmenides* 134e-135c)
- [Arguments for the Forms VI: The Argument from the Sciences](#) (Actually, there are three closely related arguments here, from Aristotle and Alexander)
- [Meno's Paradox and Plato's View that All Learning is Recollection](#) (Plato argues (against Meno) that we already "know" all the Forms; from the *Meno*)
- [Plato Criticizes his own Theory of Forms](#) (What problems Plato sees with holding that Forms exist, his defense of their existence, and another kind of argument for their existence; from the *Parmenides*)
- [On Forms, Perceptibles, and the Receptacle \(i.e. the Three Kinds of Being\)](#) (from the *Timaeus*)

On some particular Forms:

- [Notes on Plato's Arguments Against a Priest's Proposals as to what Piety or Holiness Is](#): From Plato's *Euthyphro* [pronounced, *YOU' thi* (as in "thin") *fro*], these are examples of how

Socrates would argue with men of "high reputation" (as he states in the *Apology* - see notes on the *Apology* below).

- [Virtue is a Gift of the Gods and Not Teachable](#) (from *Meno*)

On God:

- [On God's Being Immutable](#) (from *Republic II*)
- [Laymen, Poets, and Priests on Justice and Injustice](#) (from *Republic II*)

On the Ineffability of the First Cause:

- [Plato on the Difficulty of Declaring the Origin of All Things](#) (from the *Timaeus*)
- [Plato's Statement about Ineffability in a Letter](#) (from Plato's *Letter II*)

On Daimons (or Spirits):

- [On Daimons \(Guardian Spirits\), between God and Humans \(e.g. Love\)](#) (from the *Symposium*)

On Time:

- [On Time](#) (Time is the image of eternity; from the *Timaeus*)

On the Soul:

- [Plato's Argument for the Existence of a Soul](#) (from *Alcibiades I*)
- [Arguments for the Immortality of the Soul I: The Argument from Opposites Coming From Opposites](#) (*Phaedo* 70c-72e)
- [Arguments for the Immortality of the Soul II: The Argument from Recollection](#) (*Phaedo* 72e-73c)
- [Arguments for the Immortality of the Soul III: The Affinity Argument](#) (*Phaedo* 78b-80c)
- [Arguments for the Immortality of the Soul IV: The Indestructible Deathless Argument](#) (*Phaedo* 105c-107a)
- [Arguments for the Immortality of the Soul V: The Peculiar Badness Argument](#) (*Republic X* 608d-611a)
- [Arguments for the Immortality of the Soul VI: The Self-Mover Argument](#) (*Phaedrus* 245c-e)
- [On the Soul's Being our Real Self](#) (from *Laws XII*)
- [Plato on Honoring v. Dishonoring the Soul](#) (Plato's claim that blaming others for our problems injures our own soul; from *Laws V*)
- [On Self-Love's Being the Worst Vice of the Soul](#) (from *Laws V*)
- [On the Life of the Gods, Philosophers, and the Nine Sorts of Souls](#) (from the *Phaedrus*)
- [Plato's Argument for Three Parts of the Soul](#) (from *Republic IV*)
- [On the Immortal and Mortal Parts of the Soul](#) (from *Timaeus*)
- [On Bodies and the Mortal Part of the Soul](#) (from *Timaeus*)
- [On the Soul's Being Older than Body](#) (from *Laws X*)
- [On the Soul's Having "Native Characters" versus "Parts"](#) (from *Laws IX*)
- [Plato on the Soul's Being Our Real Self, and What Happens upon Death](#) (from *Laws XII*)
- [Plato on the True Nature of the Soul](#) (from *Republic X*)

Plato's Ontology (What Plato Thinks Exists):

- [My Rendition in Chart Form of Plato's Ontology](#)
- [Plato's Spindle of Necessity and Whorl - a Chart of Plato's Astronomy](#)
- [Four Existents or Classes \(Unlimited, Limit, the Mixture, and the Cause of the Previous Three\)](#) (from the *Philebus*)

On Desire and Pleasure:

- [Why No One Desires Bad Things](#) (i.e., no one can knowingly head for his or her own unhappiness, for Plato; from the *Meno*)
- [On No One's Willingly Doing Bad Actions](#) (from the *Protagoras*)
- [Plato on Desiring the Real \(v. the Apparent\) Good](#) (from *Republic VI*)
- [Soul as Prisoner of Body; Pleasures as Rivets \(i.e., "nailing us" to the perceptible world\)](#) (from the *Phaedo*)
- [On the Art that Measures Pleasure](#) (from the *Protagoras*)
- [On False Pleasures](#) (from the *Philebus*)

On the Good Person/True Philosopher:

- [On the True Philosopher's "Practicing" for Death" and What Death Is](#) (from the *Phaedo*)
- [Plato: On the Good Man's Bearing Misfortune Well and on Poverty, Disease, and Evil Being Ultimately Good for the Just Person](#) (from the *Republic*)
- [On Virtue's being a Gift from the Gods \(Dr. Y's rendition of Plato's Argument that Virtue is a Gift of the Gods\)](#) (from the *Meno*)
- [On Not Disliking Arguing \(i.e., Non-Misology\)](#) (from the *Phaedo*)

On Lying:

- [Plato v. Kant I: A Case for Breaking a Promise and/or Lying](#) (from *Republic I*)
- [Plato v. Kant II: Two General Cases for Breaking a Promise and/or Lying](#) (from *Republic II*)

On Social/Political Matters:

- [On Democracy, Part I, and How Democracy Results from Oligarchy \(Rule of the Few\)](#) (from *Republic VIII*)
- [On Democracy, Part II: What Democracy is Like, and How It Can Pass into Tyranny](#) (from *Republic VIII*)
- [That Women can Rule Plato's Ideal State](#) (from *Republic V*)
- [The Greatest Evil for any State](#) (from *Republic V*)
- [On What We Should Leave to our Children \(not Lots of Money\)](#) (from *Laws V*)
- [Plato on Not Taking Mortal Life Too Seriously](#) (from *Republic X* and *Laws VII*)
- [On Homosexuality](#) (from *Republic III*, *Laws I*, and *Laws VIII*)
- [On Slavery \(He Seems to be Either Anti-Slavery, or to Have Restrictions Related to Slaves\)](#) (from *Republic X*, *Laws VI*, and *Letter VII*)

Links to Synopses of the *Republic*:

- [A Short but Effective Summary of the Entire *Republic*, with Links to Much Longer and Detailed Summaries of Each Book!](#) (Note that the "Phoenician myth" mentioned in Book III's summary is the infamous "noble lie" of Plato's ideal state.)
- [Nice Summary of the *Republic's* Main Points \(Not Neatly Divided by Books\)](#)
- [A very brief summary of Books I through VII](#) by J. Wattles

Links to Synopses/Outlines of other dialogues:

- [Some brief and not-so-brief outlines of many dialogues](#) by Michael McGoodwin
- [A very brief outline of the *Meno*](#) by Dr. Cynthia Freeland
- [A very brief outline of the *Parmenides*](#) by Dr. Cynthia Freeland
- [A very brief outline of the *Timaeus*](#) by Dr. Cynthia Freeland

On Socrates:

- [Dr. Y's Notes on Plato's Account of Socrates' Trial](#) (from Plato's *Apology*)
- [Diogenes Laertius on Socrates](#): Some Interesting Things about Socrates' Life
- [Plato's Account of Socrates' Death](#) (from Plato's *Phaedo*)
- [An Artist's \(Jacques-Louis David\) Rendering of the Scene at Socrates' Death \(1787\)](#)
- [Plato's Statement about Socrates in a Letter](#) (from Plato's *Letter II*)
- [Ancient Students and Successors](#): This is a list of the (Ionian) Pre-Socratics, Socrates and his students, Plato, his students and successors of his Academy, and Aristotle, his students and successors of his Lyceum.

On Plato:

- [Diogenes Laertius on Plato](#): Some Interesting Things about Plato's Life
- [Plato's Claim that he has a Divine Sign](#) (from *Republic* VI)
- [Thomas Taylor's Platonic Philosophers' Creed](#) Interesting!
- [Sayings attributed to Plato that Plato did not, to my knowledge, make!](#) If you can't find it in Greek (for Plato at least), it never happened!