

## ARTICLE PRESENTATION GUIDELINES

### PHI 214: BUSINESS ETHICS

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**General Guidelines:** For the presentations, you should take us through the following 4 main areas: Bearings, Overview, Clarification, and Criticism/Analysis. After you give your sense of the Overview, I will interrupt your presentation to ask all the students in the class if they would like to add anything or see if they have any input, questions, etc. I will also stop you after you give your Clarification points, as well as your Criticism/Analysis, and I will add things along the way as well; SO this is not a "continuous" presentation where we all sit and listen for 30 minutes. So the time suggestions below are just for what YOU, the presenter will say, and the rest of the class and I will fill in the rest of the time. NOTE: If you give a presentation for an article, you do not need to turn in an Article Summary for that Article. However, do turn in your notes for your presentation: I will put a grade on the notes, look them over, and give them back to you.

#### FOUR AREAS A GOOD PRESENTATION WILL COVER:

**1. BEARINGS: (3-5 minutes)** Briefly describe the assigned philosopher/author and state the name of the assigned article that you are presenting. If you are the first presenter of a philosopher's ethical theory, you should give the class a *brief* overview of the philosopher's life -- e.g., birth and death dates, the historical time period, the work the article is taken from, other famous works, etc. You can find information about the philosophers in the summary of our text (at the beginning of the Chapters) or on the Web. If you're the second presenter of a philosopher's ethical theory (that is, the "Part II" presenter), then you may mention something about the philosopher's life that was not already mentioned by the first presenter. Please summarize the philosopher's life - do NOT summarize all of the philosopher's (ethical or general philosophical) views that are given in the introductions in the text (or on the Web) -- use this material to better understand what the philosopher is saying as you're putting together your "Overview" (see next section).

**2. OVERVIEW: (8-10 minutes)** Briefly describe what the philosopher's main thesis or point is, in the assigned material (if you're presenting the first half of the article, stick to the selections that were assigned to you -- we'll cover the rest of the material in the next presentation). Try to answer most these questions, at least briefly: What are the main points that are being made by this philosopher? How does the philosopher support his or her position? Does the philosopher give any arguments or examples that support his or her position? If so, what are the arguments or examples? Does the philosopher make any assumptions in order to make his or her argument (if so, mention them)? Is the author making any objections against his or her opponents' position(s) (if so, mention them)? What is the issue? Why is this issue important? Tips: Mention the philosopher's examples if possible, and bring in your own, contemporary or personal, examples whenever possible -- it helps students understand the material better. If you do not know or understand a word, please use my on-line dictionary (or any other) and look up what it means, so you can explain the word to the class if necessary -- it's all about education (by the way, the on-line dictionary on my website has *audio files* so you can even find out how a word is properly pronounced -- dig it)! If you do not understand the philosopher's point, or some concept they're

using, use my Philosophy resources (e.g., Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy) or any Search Engine and look the concept up -- you should be able to find **anything** in about 2 minutes or less, and quickly read it and get the idea. Oh, and of course you can always ask me! (I'll explain anything that you've tried to find but could not -- just try to find it yourself and you'll be amazed at what is out there.)

**3. CLARIFICATION: (5-15 minutes, depending on your and the other students' questions)** Is there anything about this material that you did not understand (after looking up unclear or unknown words, concepts, etc.)? What are you confused about? What did not make sense in the reading? What questions would you ask if you could talk to this philosopher right here and now? [NOTE: This is where I want everyone (whether you're presenting or not) to be really honest and tell me if they were confused about ANYTHING! You will not have points taken off from your presentation for asking questions -- answering questions will only increase everyone's understanding of the material. Note also that I will be telling you what I have questions about in the article should I have any -- asking questions is a HUGE part of doing philosophy! It's almost as if when you do not have questions while doing philosophy, something is wrong.]

**4. PRAISE/CRITICISM/ANALYSIS: (2 - 5 minutes - not a one sentence summary of what you thought)** What do you think about the philosopher's points or arguments? Do you agree with his or her position, and why or why not? Do you have any objection(s) to the philosopher's argument? How do you think the philosopher would reply to your objection(s)? Do you have a better idea, and if so, what is it? How does this philosopher's position or argument compare (or contrast) with other philosophers' positions or arguments already presented?