

A.1 First Paper Topic – Due on September 12.

What are you asked to do? – In this assignment, you are expected to *defend a clear claim in producing a clear and sound argument*.

Remember that:

1. State explicitly the claim that you are defending.
2. Feelings or authority do not constitute an acceptable basis for your claims.
3. The good starting point to be clear is to make simple sentences: any sentence that is more than two lines long should be cut into two.
4. Another tip is to keep your style simple: strictly avoid any ornamentation in your writing.
5. Finally, make the *structure* of your reasoning explicit: use link words as “because”, “Hence”, “Therefore”, “Given that” etc. Be explicit in any step you take in your argumentation: you are not writing a mystery novel, no suspense needed!

Always remember that your reader is ignorant, stupid, and mean.

Logistics – The length of the paper should be 1 to 2 pages, 500 to 800 words. Any paper outside these limits will automatically receive a failing grade.

You are required to deposit a *hard copy of your paper in my mailbox on September 12. by 5pm*. You can also give me your paper in class on September 12.

Grading Policies – You can find a detailed explanation of my grading policies on my website: <http://www.soaziglebihan.org/grading.php>.

Late Assignment Rules – Late Assignments: without prior arrangements being made with the instructor, *the grade of any late assignment will be lowered by one letter grade a day*.

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you encounter difficulties concerning an assignment, it is almost always possible to make arrangements before the assignment is due. No accommodation is possible once the deadline has passed. COME AND TALK TO ME BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE.

Academic Misconduct – You are strictly held to the University of Montana Student Conduct Code (<http://www.umt.edu.SA>).

Unless collaborative work is specifically called for, work on assignments and exams is expected to be your own. In case of plagiarism, your assignment will receive a zero. You may fail the class altogether depending on circumstances. Also, I will report the case to the Dean.

I will be glad to answer questions you may have about how to document sources properly. Anytime you take a phrase or sentence from someone, you have to quote it. Anytime you take an idea from someone, you have to cite your sources.

TOPIC – Write a short essay on the following topic:

Modern physics can be described as:

1. giving mechanistic explanations, which are
2. formulated as universal, mathematical laws, and
3. induced from repetitive controlled experiments in laboratories.

Explain why Aristotle would arguably reject modern physics as scientifically unacceptable?