

ESSAY #2 and SOCRATES PRESENTATION ASSIGNMENT

Your essay is due at the start of class on Monday, September 12.

Your oral presentation is due:

→ last name begins with A through L: Monday, September 12

→ last name begins with M through Z: Wednesday, September 14

Essay:

Choose one specific argument that Socrates makes in either the Apology or the Crito.

Paragraph 1: Summarize or paraphrase the argument. Describe in your own words the argument that Socrates is making.

Example: *In the Apology, pgs. 40-41, Socrates argues that he is not guilty of corrupting the youth of Athens because none of the fathers of Socrates' followers who sit on the jury have ever complained before that Socrates was corrupting their children.*

Paragraph 2: Clarify, explain or analyze the argument.

Example: *Socrates is not arguing that he didn't corrupt the youth. He's arguing that charging him with corrupting the youth is ridiculous because if he had been corrupting the youth, these 'good' citizens of the jury would surely have done something about it. Socrates is trying to frame the issue so that anyone who now votes to charge Socrates with corrupting the youth makes himself look bad because he never previously showed any concern about Socrates as a corrupting influence.*

Paragraph 3: Critique, interpret or refute the argument.

Example: *Socrates was a philosopher who always presented himself as a champion of virtue. But here he evades the central ethical question of whether he did or did not corrupt the youth of Athens, and tries to avert attention by implicating family members in the alleged corruption. These hardly seem like virtuous actions. Socrates could have been more true to his alleged principles if he had directly and honestly defended himself against the charge of corrupting the youth.*

Oral Presentation:

Prepare an oral statement, 2-3 minutes in length, describing the argument and your interpretation as expressed in your essay. You are *not* allowed to read your essay out loud. Instead, plan to explain your topic, why you chose it, and what process you used in writing the essay. The class will have the opportunity to ask you questions at the conclusion of your presentation.