Essay Assignment #6 PHIL 1200

Write a 2-3 page, (approx. 800-900 words) double-spaced essay one of the following. Please use Word to write the essay. It is available for free to all students, as part of Office 365, through the university website. Do not exceed the page limit; use a 12 pt. font, one inch margins. The paper should include 1) a clear exposition of the argument to be analysed, 2) a discussion of a good (on your view) objection to the argument, and 3) a discussion of a response to your good objection, unless you have chosen topic #1. If you have space, you can consider a counterresponse if you like. The paper should also include an introduction and conclusion.

**Note: Before start the paper read all the instructions carefully which are given after the topics.**

**Question:**

Present and explain Descartes’s Dream Argument. Explain and discuss the “motivated challenge” objection to the argument, i.e., the objection that the dream challenge is not motivated. (Be sure to give examples to explain the idea of a motivated/unmotivated challenge.) Consider a response.

**Instructions:-**

**Plagiarism and Cheating**—If you quote or paraphrase from any book website, or paper, you **must** footnote the source to avoid being accused of plagiarism. You can discuss ideas with your fellow students, but when you write your paper, you must do it by yourself. Plagiarism is a serious offense. The possible penalties include an “F” for the paper, an “F” for the course, and suspension from the university.

**Introductory paragraph**: Tell the reader what the paper contains. Be specific - do not say "I am going to raise an objection to Descartes’s argument. Instead, say what the objection/reply is going to be. State your position clearly. Avoid the English-paper-style descent to the particular, e.g., "Philosophers have long pondered knowledge. One of the most epistemological theories is Descartes’s. Descartes holds that...." To ensure that the introduction correctly describes the paper, write it last.

**Exposition**: Give a summary of the argument that you are going to analyze.

**Objection**: Be focused in your discussion of your objection. For example, do not include a list of the objections to the argument. Develop the objection by using plausible examples to support it.

**Response:** In writing your response, make it as strong as possible. Consider, for example, what the objector might say in defense of the objection, and write your reply to try to defeat such a defense.

**Conclusion:** Tell the reader what you have argued. Do not introduce new thoughts here.

# **Writing**

1. Use an apostrophe to form the possessive, e.g., Locke’s, Descartes’s. The possessive form of "it" is "its" (no apostrophe). "It's" means "it is."

2. Questions require question marks. (But do not argue by means of questions.)

3. Use a semi-colon or a period, not a comma, to separate independent clauses (i.e., clauses that could stand as complete sentences), e.g., “Descartes claims x; however, x is false."

4. Single-space and offset quotations of more than 4 lines. Do not put quotation marks around offset quotations. In general, quote or use your own words; do not paraphrase by borrowing most of the language of the writer. Quote when the reader must know exactly what the writer says in order to judge your objection.

5. Use "thinks" rather than "feels," "since" rather than "as," "in addition" rather than "as well" or "also."

6. Use a colon to introduce a list, amplification, or illustration. A colon must follow an independent clause. ("Locke states that:" is wrong.)

7. Avoid sentence fragments.

8. Writing in the first person is fine.

9. Use "true," false," "valid" and "sound" in their technical senses.

10. Introduce examples with "say," "for example, say," “suppose,” or "for instance, say," not "if."

11. Avoid the second person: "you." Use "I" or "we" instead.