Philosophy Journal Topics

1. Bertrand Russell’s Commandments of Philosophy – Choose three commandments and explain which three you believe are the most important. Make sure to explain exactly what they mean in your own words and make a case why they are the most important. Provide reasons for your claim.

1a.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pb7NHERV-Eo>

Who were some of the more notable philosophy majors mentioned? How does this help us understand what “philosophy” is and why it is valuable? Extra Credit - Who was not mentioned? or - find out if they really did major in philosophy? Where – when?

1b.

Read “Teaching Philosophy to plumbers” – Summarize the major points and do you agree with the author? <http://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2014/04/plato-to-plumbers/361373/>

2. Socrates – The Apology – Reflect on The apology. Who is he apologizing to? What are his major arguments?

Other option: Assume the role of and Athenian citizen who has the power to decide if Socrates lives or dies. Respond to his “Apology”. Decide whether he lives or dies and make sure to reference specific aspects of his Apology.

3. After watching one of the two videos on Socrates reflect on how each video gave you a greater understanding of Socrates importance. How did it add to your knowledge of the historical context regarding the execution of and trial of Socrates?

4. Reflect on Plato’s Allegory of the Cave

5. What is the “theory of the forms”? How is this theory central to understanding Plato’s philosophy? Compare the “Allegory of the Cave” to Plato’s Theory of the forms?