

**Michigan State University, Philosophy Department, Dr. Christian Lotz
Papers, Grading Criteria**

Author: _____

Date: _____

Excellent papers will

	Superior	Fulfilled	Should be improved	Unfulfilled
begin with an introductory paragraph, which states the main topic of the paper, and the problem and the issues related to it	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
state the solutions / thesis of the author	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
have a <i>clear</i> and <i>appropriate</i> thesis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
outline the body of the paper	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
end with a concluding paragraph in which either the main conclusion(s) of the paper are restated or its main point(s) are summarized, whichever is most appropriate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
give their reader help regarding what he/she has to expect in the paragraphs and/or parts of the paper (“reflection sentences”),	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
connect their sentences and paragraphs in a clear manner, make the structure of the paper body visible	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
cite the source of all ideas that are not the writer’s own, even if not directly quoted from the text	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
integrate quotes in an appropriate manner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
use clear and understandable language and style	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
be well organized	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
in regard to their contents				
<i>focus</i> on important points	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
grasp the problem and the author’s solution	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
treat the question/problem in a clear and forceful manner,	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
as such a manner will display the writer’s <i>understanding</i> of the relevant ideas; this means that <i>instead of simply summarizing</i> what is claimed in the text(s) that is (are) being discussed, the writer will <i>attempt</i> to explain what is meant by selected claims	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
show <i>evidence</i> for their claims, <i>explain</i> claims	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
display the writer’s command of the discussed topic and author	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
in addition				
include author’s checklist	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
include editor’s checklist	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
be submitted on time	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Group Ranking: _____

Grade: _____

Paper Conference: Pass Fail