

Philosophy 137
Fall 2008
First Paper Assignment

Answering Skeptical Arguments about Freedom and Responsibility

CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:

- (A) Briefly set out either the Rock and a Hard Place Argument or the Self-Creation Argument. As clearly, carefully, and concisely as you can, explain how Chisholm answers the argument you set out. Finally, briefly set out what you take to be the strongest challenge Chisholm's view faces.
- (B) As clearly, concisely, and carefully as you can, explain how Frankfurt argues against the Principle of Alternate Possibilities. Raise one objection to Frankfurt's argument, and explain why Pereboom's argument is intended to succeed where Frankfurt's fails.

INSTRUCTIONS:

- (1) Your paper should be no more than 1000 words in length. Please write the word count on the first page of your paper.
- (2) Your paper should have a cover sheet. Your name should appear on the cover sheet, and not elsewhere on the paper.
- (3) Please type your papers, using a 12-point font and 1-inch margins on all sides. Please include page numbers.
- (4) You are strongly encouraged to discuss the ideas of your paper with me and with your fellow students. At the same time, the *writing* of your paper must be entirely your own.
- (5) Please use the Advice for Writing a Philosophy Paper on the course web site.
- (6) Papers are due on October 13, at 11 am. Late papers will not be accepted unless you have a valid excuse given to me in advance if at all possible.
- (7) Hard copies should be turned in class, and electronic copies must be uploaded to turnitin.com. Please follow the instructions for doing so that are given in class.
- (8) Please note: on this assignment, you do not have much space to engage in a critical evaluation of the views you discuss. You will have several opportunities to do this on future assignments, though, so continue to think critically!