

What were the logical positivists against? Here is an example.

“What is to be investigated is being only and *–nothing* else; being alone and further—*nothing*; solely being, and beyond being—*nothing*. *What about this Nothing? . . . Does the Nothing exist only because the Not, i.e. the Negation, exists? Or is it the other way around? Does Negation and the Not exist only because the Nothing exists? . . . We assert: The Nothing is prior to the Not and Negation. . . Where do we seek the Nothing? How do we find the Nothing. . . We know the Nothing. . . Anxiety reveals the Nothing. . . That for which and because of which we were anxious, was “really”—nothing. Indeed: The Nothing itself—as such—was present. . . What about this Nothing? –The Nothing itself nothings.*”---Martin Heidegger, *What Is Metaphysics?*, as quoted in Rudolf Carnap, “The Elimination of Metaphysics through Logical Analysis of Language” (1932).

Logical positivists including Carnap and A.J. Ayer aimed to show that philosophical writing like what is quoted above makes no sense, is meaningless utterance. Ayer introduced the verifiability criterion of meaning in order to secure this result.