



PHILOSOPHY SUPPORT

“THE UNEXAMINED LIFE IS NOT WORTH LIVING” (SOCRATES).



Background Information

Epistemology is the study of knowledge and justified belief. It is concerned with key questions such as:

- What are the necessary and sufficient conditions of knowledge?
- What are its sources?
- What is its structure, and what are its limits?

It aims to answer questions such as:

- How are we to understand the concept of justification?
- What makes justified beliefs justified?
- Is justification internal or external to one's mind?

There are differing approaches to the answering of such questions. Two such approaches are:

Evidence vs. Reliability

- According to **evidentialists** the possession of evidence is what makes beliefs justified.
- According to **reliabilists** the processes and thoughts involved in proving a theory are what make a belief justified.

Internalism and externalism are two opposing ways of explaining various subjects in several areas of philosophy. Usually '**internalism**' refers to the belief that an explanation can be given of the given subject by pointing to things which are internal to the person or their mind which is considering them. Conversely, **externalism** holds that it is things about the world which motivate us, justify our beliefs and determine meaning.

Logic and Logical Fallacy – Examples of differing types of Logical Fallacies

- Strawman – Misrepresenting someone's argument to make it easier to attack
- Middle ground - Claiming that a compromise or middle point between two arguments is the truth
- False Cause -Presuming that a real or perceived relationship between things means that one is the cause of the other.
- Appeal to nature - Making the argument that because something is 'natural' it is therefore valid, justified, inevitable, good, or ideal.
- Special Pleading - Moving the goalposts or making up exceptions when a claim is shown to be false.
- Ambiguity -Using double meanings or ambiguities of language to mislead or misrepresent the truth.
- Personal incredulity - Saying that because one finds something difficult to understand that it's therefore not true.
- Burden of Proof - Saying that the burden of proof lies not with the person making the claim, but with someone else to disprove.

Euler Diagram – A Euler diagram is a diagrammatic means of representing sets and their relationships. The first use of "Eulerian circles" is commonly attributed to Swiss mathematician Leonhard Euler (1707–1783). They are closely related to Venn diagrams.

Validity of Arguments - An argument is deductively valid (or, for short, just "valid") when the conclusion is entailed by, or logically follows from, the premises.

Excellent Sites to visit

1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OfYw9OqD8YA> – What is Philosophy? – all years
2. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=16TegBGFtn8> – History of Philosophy
3. <https://depts.washington.edu/nwcenter/lessonplans.html> - years 5 & 6 and 7 & 8
4. Logic question: <https://depts.washington.edu/nwcenter/downloads/LittleLogic.pdf>
5. <http://philosophyforchildren.blogspot.com.au/> - years 5 & 6
6. PLATO: <http://plato-philosophy.org/lesson-plans-2/pre-college-course-material/> - all years
7. <http://philosophy.tamu.edu/~sdaniel/251sy07c.html> - years 7-11 - all years
8. <http://philosophy.unc.edu/files/2013/10/Philosophy-for-Children-Lesson-Plans.pdf> - Lesson plans and activities - all years
9. <http://squirefoundation.org/curricula/> - Fantastic resources and activities for all years!
10. <http://ideas.ted.com/6-thinkers-whose-depressing-ideas-will-make-you-feel-better/> - Philosophers – all years
11. https://www.ted.com/playlists/20/where_do_ideas_come_from - TED talk - all years
12. <https://www.ted.com/talks?topics%5B%5D=philosophy> – TED talks on Philosophy – all years
13. <http://www.philosophypages.com/dy/ix1.htm#a> – definitions – all years
14. <http://www.philosophypages.com/ph/index.htm> - Famous Philosophers - all years
15. <http://www.philosophypages.com/lg/index.htm> - Logic - all years
16. <http://philosophy.hku.hk/think/fallacy/fallacy-list.php> =- fallacies - all years
17. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GbkpFrcNI48> Socrates – all years