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Philosophy

Abbreviated Guidelines for Reading (and Writing) Philosophy Papers

- 1) What is the main question being addressed by the author?
(this is sometimes stated explicitly as a question or given in the title of the article)
- 2) How does the author answer this question?
(1&2 together is the main claim or *thesis* that the author wants to establish)
- 3) What is the main (positive) argument(s) used to support this thesis?
- 4) What is the main refutation(s) used to support this thesis?
- 5) What do you think about the author's arguments and why?
(if you are writing a paper, then you are the author)