

### **General Objectives for Writing a Philosophy Essay**

**1) *clarity and precision*:** achieved by clearly and concisely defining main concepts and distinctions fundamental to the view being explained, and by explaining the relation between main concepts in a meaningful way.

**2) *explanatory depth*:** achieved by giving the arguments or reasons used to justify the view being explained, e.g., by identifying and discussing the significance of underlying principles and by explaining how examples can be considered relevant.

**3) *substantive interpretation or evaluation*:** achieved by clearly stating *your appraisal* of the view being explained, i.e., *why* you think the main concepts and/or arguments are convincing or problematic (give reasons, don't just make claims).

**Note: 1, 2, and 3 above are all interdependent aspects of the same creative process -- that of critical analysis and philosophical reflection. They are not done in isolation of each other.**

### **MEANING OF SHORTHAND COMMENTS ON DRAFTS AND ESSAYS**

**W:** wording

**S:** spelling

**P:** punctuation

**R:** redundant

**N:** number (e.g., singular subject repeated in the plural form)

**T:** transition

**C:** contradiction

**CL:** clarify

**EX:** explain, such as the significance of a passage; or explain main point in more depth

**NAFS:** not a full sentence

**LED:** lacks explanatory depth