

# Introduction to Philosophy

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## Art and Aesthetic Judgment: Art as Revelation

As you read the material for the next class, keep the questions below in mind. To answer these questions you will have to reflect critically on what you have read and possibly re-read important passages. Keep in mind that there are two basic kinds of information that you need to look for in the readings:

1. What are the main points or conclusions that an author accepts with respect to a particular issue?
2. What are the reasons, important considerations, and evidence that lead the author to accept that conclusion?

For our purposes, *it is information of the second sort that will be our primary concern* since our most basic task is to *evaluate the reasons and evidence* that are offered to support accepting one possible conclusion about an issue, rather than another.

Although I strongly suggest that you write out brief answers to these questions, you do not have to turn in written responses. You do, however, need to be prepared to speak intelligently to these issues in the next class meeting.

### Reading

- Arthur Schopenhauer, *The World as Will and Representation*.

### Background

See the reading for a fine introduction to this material.

### Questions

1. How does Arthur Schopenhauer compare art and science? Does he see one as better than the other? Why or why not?
2. Schopenhauer stress the role of genius in art. Why is it so important? Why does Schopenhauer believe that mathematicians and scientists cannot be true geniuses?
3. What is Schopenhauer's distinction between the beautiful and the sublime? Why is the sublime so important for him?
4. Schopenhauer contends that music is the most fundamental art form. Is this a compelling argument?