Introduction to Philosophy

🖊 Organize an Activity

What would you like to do to make the world better?

Organize an action to make a positive change. Get creative! And take a leadership role.

Very Important!

YOUR SAFETY IS A PRIORITY! Choose a project that works for you given the risks you may face.

Examples

Activities might include something educational (fliers, brochures, posters, panel discussion, a mini-class/workshop that teaches a practical skill, etc.), some sort of fund-raising event (clothing drive, or other sort of collection event), getting a larger group together to do a volunteer project on a weekend (in a garden, with animals, building houses, cleaning up beaches, teaching underprivileged kids, etc.).

Here are some examples that other students have done for their activities:

- Organizing a walk to benefit an organization helping those struggling with eating disorders.
- Organizing a campaign for more healthy food options on campus.
- Organizing shoe collection for a local organization benefiting people experiencing homelessness.
- Organizing a vegan cooking night.
- Organizing an interactive workshop to repurpose ghost nets into functional items, such as grocery tote bags, baskets, and cat scratching posts.
- Organizing a CPR class for the campus community.

You will find many more ideas for possible activities on the Engaged Philosophy website:

https://www.engagedphilosophy.com/project/

Here's What I Want You to Do

Once you have completed your activity, you **submit a final report** that includes the following items:

A. A **log** of hours done, when you did it (dates and times), where you did them, and what you did.
B. **Documentation** of your activity. Think about including pictures, videos, posters, emails, screenshots of posts to social media, etc. This is very important! Make sure your pictures/evidence clearly shows what you did. Without proof you are likely to get a zero on this entire experiment. Be sure you have permission to take pictures on location and that you respect the rights of others (especially children and vulnerable adults).
C. A **one-minute video** that showcases your activity. Make this enticing (fun, engaging) and polished. The video can have multiple scenes. Consider using a free trial on animoto (https://animoto.com). Be sure you have permission to film on location and that you respect the rights of others (especially children and vulnerable adults).
D. A **short reflection** that connects what you did to course concepts. Recall that (as Socrates understood it) philosophy is supposed to be a force for social good in our communities. So I want you to reflect on how the activity of philosophy connects to your experience of organizing an activity. For example, did course concepts

This "Experiment in Philosophy" is based upon a similar "Experiment in Ethics" from Ramona Ilea and Monica Janzen. I highly encourage you to visit their website on Engaged Philosophy (https://www.engagedphilosophy.com) for much more!

help you better understand the impact of your activity? Or perhaps your activity gave you a better understanding of course concepts? **This reflection should be 300–400 words** (not longer), not including items A, B, and E.

E.   Very concrete **tips for future students** that are specific to your project. These should *not* be general tips about the class or about organizing activities in general. Imagine that someone wants to organize the *same* activity that you did…

- What would they need to know?
- Who should they contact?
- What mistakes should they avoid?
- What could they do differently to build and improve on your success with this project?

Your tips should be 200-400 words (not longer).

Here's Why I Want You to Do It

I am having you organize an activity because doing so has you…

- Differentiate between the impact of volunteering for an organization (charitable action) and that of organizing an activity of your own (justice focused action).
- Engage with others by presenting arguments and thinking of counterarguments.
- Exercise your own agency as you design and implement your activity.
- Reflect on how your actions may directly contribute to tangible positive change in our communities.

Here's How It Will Be Graded

Your organize an activity report will be assessed according to the following criteria:

1.   Documented evidence.
2.   The overall project (level of difficulty, how much difference you made, amount of work involved, organizational skills, ability to plan ahead and be disciplined, etc.).
3.   Reflection on and use of course materials.
4.   Tips for future students.
5.   Extremely polished (no grammatical mistakes, no typos) and college-level writing.
6.   Crystal clear organization.
7.   Word count.

Collaboration & Academic Integrity

You are free to team up with any of your classmates. However, I will then expect an activity that is more difficult and with more work than done by students working alone. In that case, you still need to submit your own final report and video, focusing on your own individual contribution to the entire project along with your own personal reflections.

As usual, I expect you to write your organize an activity report on your own without resorting to artificial intelligence (AI) tools to write it for you. (Perhaps not too surprisingly, AI tools do a pretty bad job in completing this sort of report.) After all, I am primarily interested in how *you* are thinking about how your experiences connect to the activity of philosophy and other course concepts!

Above all, **please be honest if you do receive any outside assistance or use the ideas of others**. This includes using AI tools. In any of those cases, be sure to let me know what assistance you received, and I will let you know how to properly acknowledge that assistance in accordance with standards of academic integrity.