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Phil 1250

Reflective essay

At the onset of this course, my expectations were rather modest. Having previously completed a philosophy class, I assumed this course would delve deeper into certain concepts, and indeed, it did. To me, this class served as a practical application of philosophy. The philosophy class I took earlier had been somewhat uninspiring, leading me to question the utility of mere discussions and debates among older individuals, seemingly devoid of tangible outcomes. However, this course proved to be instrumental in translating philosophical concepts into practical applications.

While I initially perceived myself as a reasonably adept critical thinker, superior to the individuals around me, this class provided me with a structured framework to quantify the logic underlying my thoughts and actions. It also equipped me with the tools to evaluate the reasoning of others. Despite my pre-existing critical thinking skills, I acknowledge that there is always room for improvement, and this class has been instrumental in fostering my growth in this aspect.

Admittedly, the journey to enhance my critical analytical abilities has been challenging and requires consistent practice. Engaging with the concepts learned in the class necessitates ongoing application to hone these skills. However, the process has been enlightening, and I anticipate continued improvement through persistent effort.

One noticeable consequence of my enhanced understanding of proper argumentation is a heightened awareness of the intellectual gaps in the people around me. This newfound clarity has, at times, led to a sense of condescension. Interrogating flawed lines of thought appears to others as arrogance on my part. This internal struggle is, therefore, a personal challenge, as the realization of the disparity in logical reasoning abilities can inadvertently cast me in a negative light.

Moreover, the prevalent communication style in America often discourages questioning the logical coherence of others. Consequently, my focus remains on self-improvement rather than attempting to reform the thinking patterns of those around me. It is a realization that logical thinking is a skill that develops gradually, and the complexities of language and inherent biases complicate the foundational aspects of critical thinking.

In reflection, I believe a simplified version of this course, tailored for a younger audience, would be immensely beneficial. Logical thinking, being a skill that matures slowly, would benefit from early exposure. Moreover, introducing these concepts at a younger age could help counteract the influence of language nuances and biases that tend to cloud the foundations of critical thinking. As I continue to navigate this personal journey of intellectual growth, I recognize the broader societal implications of fostering logical thinking skills from an early age.