

English 96

Essay #4: Plato's "Allegory of the Cave"

Essay Length: 750-1000 words (2-3 typed pages)

Topic

Write an essay in which you consider whether Plato's "Allegory of the Cave" can be applied to how we live our everyday lives. Be sure to explain clearly what you believe the allegory means, and use specific examples from your own reading and/or experience to illustrate to what extent the allegory does or does not apply to our everyday lives.

General Hints

1. Read the topic a couple of times and note what it requires you to do. Complete all the tasks of the assignment.
2. Take time to plan and organize your essay before you begin to write. (Scratch outlines are often quite helpful.)
3. Be sure to start with a clear main idea. (In other words, make sure you can answer this question: "What is the main point I want my readers to understand?")
4. Make sure that you support or illustrate general points with specific examples and vivid details from your own experience and from the text (when appropriate).
5. Allow yourself enough time after writing to go back over your essay, check for errors or omissions, and make any necessary corrections.