

Now that you have schematized Zeno's best argument against plurality, you are in a good position to assess not only whether it is sound, but also whether subsequent Greek pluralists succeeded in saving the appearance of plurality from his paradoxical attack.

After an appropriate introduction—one that tersely introduces both the problem at hand and your thesis about it—present this paradox. You should stick close to your schema, or at least close to its corrected version. Write fluid prose, but do not aspire to eloquence. Your goal in these first two pages is to present Zeno's argument clearly, in a way understandable even to someone who has read neither your schema nor Zeno himself. Accordingly, audition your presentation for others outside of our class, clarifying the parts they cannot understand.

Next, in less than a page, adduce an objection to Zeno's argument. You may find it easier to adduce the objection in the midst of your presentation, or at its end, once you have taken your reader through the whole argument. This decision will depend on your particular presentation, and thus require your good judgment.

In either case, once you have exposed some weakness in the paradox, proceed to a brief but cogent exposition of the two pluralist positions that seem to have responded to its argument: the "all things were together" doctrine of Anaxagoras (see especially 13.1), and the atomism of Democritus (see especially 16.12). Each exposition should occupy no more than two pages (that is, two for Anaxagoras, two for Democritus). Show how each implicitly accommodated or criticized Zeno's paradox.

In a conclusion of one or two pages, finally, determine which of these two positions offered the best response to Zeno. In other words, who best defended the appearance of plurality from Zeno's paradox, Anaxagoras or Democritus? Did either succeed? It may help to consider whether either of these pluralists capitalized on something like your objection, or whether one or both of them presupposed some other objection.