

Logic Assignment

While reading Parmenides and Melissus, write a short report (2 pages maximum) that shows in their writings instances of twenty-three of the logical terms that we will have read from Warburton by the due date. These twenty-seven terms are:

necessary and sufficient conditions	assertion	denying the antecedent
consistency	argument	affirming the consequent
contradiction	premise	equivocation
contraries	conclusion	<i>non sequitur</i>
counterexample	deduction	formal fallacy
conditional statements	validity	begging the question
antecedent	sound argument	circular argument
consequent	affirming the antecedent	enthymeme
iff	denying the consequent	assumption
		paradox

This need not be an essay. Here are some models of what you should do:

1. *Conditional statement*: “if it came to be, it is necessary that before it came to be it was nothing.” (Melissus #1, p.76) This is a statement of the form “if p , then q ,” although the ‘then’ is missing, as sometimes happens in English.
2. *Antecedent, and Sufficient Condition*: “it came to be,” (Melissus #1, p.76). This is the p , or first part, of the conditional statement above. If it is true, the consequent will be true. In other words, it is a sufficient condition for the consequent.
3. *Consequent, and Necessary Condition*: “it is necessary that before it came to be it was nothing” (Melissus #1, p.76). This is the q , or second part, of the conditional statement above. If it is false, the antecedent will be false. In other words, it is a necessary condition for the antecedent.

Begin with a statement of the term you have in mind. Next, quote a passage that is an instance of this term, citing it by number and page. Finally, explain why this passage is an instance of the term in question. As you see in my models, some passages illustrate multiple logical terms.

In some cases – especially the terms of the third column above, which are more complex – a little more explanation may be required in order to show how the passage you have chosen is an instance of the term.

However, I am not looking for an essay. Instead, consider this a terse demonstration of two skills: your mastery of the basic concepts of logic, and your ability to see these concepts at work in the philosophical writings of the Greeks.

Although Warburton does write clearly, some of these terms can be difficult to master for beginners. Thus, if you are having trouble understanding any of them, please consult me in office hours before attempting this assignment.