

**Learning Activity One: What is Philosophy**

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GEN 330: Introduction to Philosophy

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It is hard to pinpoint a definition of what philosophy is. The videos and the reading assigned did help with this assignment, though. Philosophy is simply a thought pattern or belief system that someone has based on individual experiences. When looking at the video "What is Philosophy," we learn that when philosophers often practice philosophy, the issue being presented is broken into four categories: truth, belief, reality, and worth. (What is Philosophy). Philosophy is being able to take a topic and understand it and break it down by using logic and evidence that supports your viewpoints on the topic.

Something important to remember about philosophy is that philosophy does not consist of speculations or arguments about one topic over another but a problem. For example, politics or who is getting voted for would not be philosophy. However, a topic such as religion or the belief in a higher power, or what comes after death would be two great topics that will require some thought, breakdown, and reasoning to support whatever standpoint one might take on the matter. One will conclude based on knowledge, truth, belief, and maybe even worth it.

According to the book "The Big Question A Short Introduction to Philosophy," A great philosopher will not just voice their opinions based on their belief. Rather a great philosopher will always look at a problem from both sides. Not just their side but expect and maybe even state the counterarguments that may be made against them and their philosophy.

I may lose points for getting a little philosophical, but I am doing this little section for feedback. After watching the videos and reading the required material, my understanding of philosophy is a thought process that takes a problem and dissects it based on some known information. However, I would argue that some of the philosophy is based on one's core beliefs. Growing up, people find out who they are as individuals, and they learn things like touching a

hot object is going to hurt, or if you don't wash your hands, you enhance your chances of becoming ill. You also learn more important things, such as loyalty and respect. When given a problem, one will process that problem based on their core beliefs.

In the second video, "What Great Philosophers Can Teach Us," an interesting statement was made. Author Allen De Button says, "it is possible to say that 98 percent of Americans believe x, so in today's culture, most people then would believe then x must be right." A philosopher would come along and look at this statement and dissect it and figure out both sides. Not just the supporting argument but an argument against the said problem as well. And That is what philosophy is. It is the ability to break down a problem, see both sides of the argument, and support your stance based on facts, not just opinions.

## References:

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