Instructions PHIL 102: Introduction to Philosophy Paper #3 Write a 2-page paper on one of the following topics. The usual directions apply. Please also see the paper template and checklist. See HERE for a sample philosophy paper and more discussion of writing. Due April 28. Topics 1. YOU’VE GOT TO HAVE FAITH. One view of faith is that it is belief where there is no possible evidence. This means that faith only concerns those matters that can’t even be known with any justification. Another view is that faith is simply confidence in the testimony of others. You personally cannot prove it, but other people whom you trust can. Which one best represents religious faith, according to you? (1) State your view clearly (in the first paragraph), (2) give relevant examples, (3) provide explicit reasons in favor of your view, and (4) answer an objection. 2. BLINDED BY SCIENCE. People often cite “science” as a reason they do not have religious beliefs. Lots of scientists, however, are religious. Aside from that, many religions explicitly support science and scientific research. Is this some kind of contradiction? (1) State your view clearly (in the first paragraph), (2) give relevant examples, (3) provide explicit reasons in favor of your view, and (4) answer an objection. 3. TO BE OR NOT TO BE. Metaphysics is the branch of philosophy that studies what it means to exist. Some philosophers have said that “to be” or “to exist” means different things. It is one thing for a person to exist, and then another for, say, God to exist. Question for you: is this some kind of trick? (1) State your view clearly (in the first paragraph), (2) give relevant examples, (3) provide explicit reasons in favor of your view, and (4) answer an objection. 4. YOU CAN’T HANDLE THE PROOF. We’ve studied several proofs for the existence of God. Is there one of them you find particularly cogent (or uncogent)? Discuss the proof and what aspect of it you find cogent or uncogent. (1) State your view clearly (in the first paragraph), (2) give relevant examples, (3) provide explicit reasons in favor of your view, and (4) answer an objection. 5. THE DEVIL YOU KNOW. The “problem of evil” has it that either the amount of suffering, or the mere fact of its existence, is evidence against the existence of God. Why would such a perfect being allow gratuitous or just plain pointless suffering? Using some example from recent events (you know what I’m talking about) discuss a view about this problem. (1) State your view clearly (in the first paragraph), (2) give relevant examples, (3) provide explicit reasons in favor of your view, and (4) answer an objection.

Pick one question out of the five topics and right a two page essay PHIL 102: Introduction to Philosophy What is a philosophy paper? At its core, a philosophy paper is one where you discuss reasons for accepting some claim. The star of a philosophy paper, then, are the reasons. We will look at an example in a moment, but let’s look at the general structure first. All of the topics for the last paper include this sentence: (1) State your view clearly (in the first paragraph), (2) give relevant examples, (3) provide explicit reasons in favor of your view, and (4) answer an objection. Corresponding to this, is something like the following structure. Paragraph 1: Introduction. The introduction tells the reader what the topic is and why it’s important. The last sentence of the introduction should be the THESIS. The thesis tells the reader what you are going to show, argue, demonstrate, or prove. That’s what philosophy papers typically do. Ideally, the thesis also provides a roadmap of your argument, or a guide to your reasons: first, second, third--that kind of thing. Paragraphs 2-5 or so: The reasons. Sometimes the reasons you offer will build: first the one, then other, etc. Sometimes they’re cumulative: given all of these separate reasons . Paragraph 6 or so: An objection. This is the most important part of any philosophy paper. It’s also fundamental to thinking in the first place: address someone who disagrees . Say what they might think and then answer them. Paragraph 7: Restate your thesis and end the paper with an observation, a quip, or something about why what you said was important or worthwhile