

## *The One-Minute-Paper Pitch*

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**Purpose:** The purpose of this class is not merely to teach you *about* philosophy, but first and foremost how to *do* philosophy. To that end, philosophical writing is best seen as an act of *communication* between inquiring persons. You should get out of the headspace of seeing your writing as the production of a textual object that satisfies a set of formulaic rules, and into the headspace of seeing your writing from the standpoint of a *human reader*, one who has less than infinite cognitive resources to spend in following the argument of your paper.



Being able to clearly, concisely, and confidently communicate the *guiding question* of your paper to other people will help you to refine the *central claim* you will be contributing through your paper.

**Task:** In this exercise, you'll give a one-minute-pitch designed to provide yourself and others the ambition behind your paper in capsule form.

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**INSTRUCTIONS:** The average person speaks at somewhere between 125 and 150 words per minute. To challenge ourselves to improve clarity and concision, you'll have 150 words max to accomplish the following:

(i) **Establish Minimal Context:** *What is the issue you will be addressing?*

(ii) **Raise a Guiding Question:** *Why is this issue interesting? What are the questions posed and what are the stakes at hand?*

(iii) **Audition Your Response:** *How will you address this issue?*