

## *The Five-Minute-Paper Pitch*

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**Purpose:** 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 an approximately **five-minute-or-less-pitch** designed to provide yourself and others the basic argument of your paper in capsule form.

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

**(ii) Raise a Refined Guiding Question:** *What specific problem(s) or question(s) will you raise? Why is this a difficult question or problem? How might people reasonably disagree over the question you are raising?*

**(iii) Audition Your Argument:** *How will you respond to the question(s) you've raised? What arguments will you make to support your response to the question(s)?*

**(iv) Set the Table for Feedback:** *What worries do you have for your argument? What would be most helpful for your peer(s) to comment on or validate?*

