

PHILOSOPHIA: CALL FOR PAPERS

York University's Undergraduate Philosophy Association

THE ORACLE 2017

THEME: The Meaning of Life

DEADLINE: January 30, 2017

As York University's Undergraduate Philosophy Association, we are collecting papers for our Spring 2017 issue of our undergraduate philosophy journal, *The Oracle*. Winners will be announced by the end of February 2017, and will be invited to attend our year-end Annual Undergraduate Philosophy Conference (date TBA) to present their submission.

The **meaning of life** is often a topic of our concern—a topic that either liberates us, confuses us, or even frighten us. When we ask: What is the meaning of life? We also open doors to other questions that can consume our thoughts; questions like: How *can* I live a life that is meaningful to me? How can others live a meaningful life? *Is* there meaning in life at all? *Why* do human beings tend to search for meaning? Where can we find meaning in life? *Why* should we care about the meaning of life? What constitutes meaning? often draws us towards a hunt to know, but to also, understand, what the meaning of life is, or entails.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

1. Open to **ALL** undergraduate students across North America
2. One submission per student
3. Email your submission to oracle.yorku@gmail.com. Include "Oracle Submission - (Name), (Type of Submission, e.g. paper, artwork, fiction)" in the **subject** line. Include the following in the **body** of your email: *name, contact phone, email, title, university affiliation, program and year of study, and proof of enrollment (e.g. student ID, course schedule, etc)*.
4. Written submissions **must** be (.doc) or (.docx), and **cannot** exceed 3000 words.
5. Essays **must** include an abstract no more than 350-400 words.
6. **ALL** submissions must be prepared for blind review. Please include identification in your email (see 3).
7. **ALL** submissions must be your original work. **NO plagiarism.**

SUBMISSION IDEAS

We will accept: argumentative essays, short stories (non-fiction or fiction), stream of consciousness writings, poetry, comic strips, visual media (e.g. painting, drawing, photography, digital artwork, etc).

Note 1: These are only suggestions. If you are still unsure as to what you can submit, please contact *oracle.yorku@gmail.com*, or stop by our office to further discuss (by appointment via *philclub@yorku.ca* or during our office hours on Mondays from 1:00-2:00 p.m in 101D Vanier College).

Note 2: For non-digital artwork (e.g. paintings, drawings), please make sure you submit a scan. There is a 3 page limit for all non-digital artwork.

Note 3: If you decide to submit a visual media piece, please submit a 300+ word paragraph explaining the philosophical idea(s) behind the work.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS AUTHORS CAN ADDRESS

- What do we mean when we ask 'what is the meaning of life'?
- Why do I (or we) ask the question in the first place?
- Is there some existential dis-ease that makes me (or us) ask the question?
- Does the question even make sense? Is it the right question to ask?

POSSIBLE APPROACHES AUTHORS CAN TAKE

- Existential (approach the question from the standpoint of one's existence, and experience)
- Metaphysical
- Political
- Social
- Theological
- Psychological
- Scientific

Note 1: Having a general background in philosophy (academic or not) is helpful. Making connections to other philosophers or philosophical works are encouraged, but not necessary.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AND SUBMISSION PROCESS

1. No submissions are accepted after the deadline.
2. Five volunteers are needed to conduct a blind review.
3. Volunteers will be upper-year undergraduate philosophy students, and possibly one graduate student with excellent reading, writing, and editing skills.

4. **ALL** hours spent reviewing will go toward every volunteer's extracurricular transcript via *YUConnect* under 'Philosophia' (applies to York University students only).

If you meet the criteria to volunteer, please contact us!

Again, the **deadline** is **January 30, 2017**. We will **NOT** be accepting submissions after this date.

FURTHER QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT US:

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