



Submission Guide

YPR Issue X: Puzzle & Paradox

Who are we?

The Yale Philosophical Review (YPR) is a journal that publishes philosophical writing by undergrads. We believe that philosophical writing encompasses more than just academic papers. In addition to academic philosophy, we publish short stories, poems, book reviews, and more exotic forms of narrative that speak to philosophical questions. We solicit pieces from undergraduates worldwide.

We'll begin with a theme, which is meant to inspire and give focus to our writers. This issue's theme is *Puzzle & Paradox*, which we explain further below. Our editors then select 5-8 pieces of varying length to publish each cycle.

After selecting pieces, our editors will work with authors to refine their pieces. We expect the average piece to undergo a minimum of two cycles of comments and revisions before publication. Submitting authors should be willing to commit to meeting at least twice with their editors between January 5th-30th, 2024, to discuss their writing with their editors. Next, each piece will be copy-edited before being sent off to our publisher, the Philosophy Documentation Center, for publication in our print and online issue.

What are we looking for?

The YPR publishes two sorts of pieces. The first are articles of academic philosophy. Academic articles should take clear, non-obvious, and innovative philosophical positions, and explicitly argue in favor of the position. Any of the pieces published in issues I-VI of the YPR are good examples of academic articles. You can find back issues of YPR on the Philosophy Documentation Center website [here](#).

The second sort are pieces of non-traditional, speculative, and literary philosophy. This category is intentionally broad. Our only guideline is that submissions in the non-traditional category must approach a philosophical question, issue, or problem in a creative way that does not exclusively rely on explicit argument. Types of acceptable submissions may include, but are not limited to, short stories, thought experiments, poems, or book reviews. A wonderful example of such a piece is Lewis Carroll's "What the Tortoise Said to Achilles," which you can find [here](#). You can find more examples in our reading group syllabus below.



Theme of Issue X: *Puzzle & Paradox*

The YPR selects a theme to inspire, rather than constrain, our authors. Although we expect all submissions to touch on the theme in some way, we encourage authors to be liberal and innovative in your interpretations of *Puzzle & Paradox*. Authors may want to tackle a specific paradox, puzzle, or open problem in philosophy, discuss the value or nature of puzzle and paradox as concepts, or go in an entirely different direction.

Our editors have been hard at work this semester reading, thinking about, and discussing various philosophical paradoxes in preparation for this upcoming issue. We've included the syllabus for the YPR's reading group in this document below. Authors may find this a useful source of inspiration. Authors are not, however, required to write about the topics touched on in the syllabus.

Deadlines:

*November 24th, 2023: **Submissions Open***

This is when YPR will be opening for submissions. There will be two deadlines, Round One and Round Two. The purpose of these deadlines is to give our writers benchmarks for submitting. We will be accepting and reviewing submissions on a rolling basis up until their respective deadlines.

*December 1st, 2023: **Round One Submissions Due**, Round Two Submissions Open*

YPR will review the Round One submissions on a rolling basis. We will accept Round One submissions up until December 1st, 2023. While we will not favor submissions which were submitted for the Round One deadline, we encourage submitting as soon as possible.

*December 22nd, 2023: **Round Two Submissions Due**/Submissions Close*

Round Two submissions are due on December 22nd, 2023. We may consider accepting rolling submissions past this date. We will emphasize that writers are welcome to email us with extension proposals beyond this deadline, particularly to accommodate writers who plan to write over winter break. From December 22nd onwards, we will continue to read and evaluate submissions.

*January 5th, 2024: **Final articles confirmed**, editing period begins*

By January 5th, 2024, all authors will be notified of whether or not their submission was selected for publication. Selected authors will be contacted by YPR editors to schedule at least two meetings for comprehensive review of their piece. These meetings are to be held between January 5th-30th, 2024.



Submission guidelines:

For all submissions:

1. The author of the submission must have been an undergraduate at the time of writing.
2. The submission must not have been published in a journal in its current form. However, we consider submissions that have been circulated online or presented at a conference.
3. The manuscript itself must not have any identifying information (your name, university, ect). The only exception are non-traditional submissions in which the identifying information is incorporated in the piece.

For academic submissions:

1. The submission must be single-spaced in a 12-point font and adhere to the *Chicago Manual of Style* (endnotes and bibliography).
2. The submission must be no more than 7,500 words long. However, we understand that length and quality are often not positively correlated, and accept submissions well below the 7,500 word limit.

For non-traditional submissions:

1. The submission must be no more than 7,500 words long. However, we understand that length and quality are often not positively correlated, and accept submissions well below the 7,500 word limit. Submit a haiku if you'd like.

How to Submit:

Fill out this google form: <https://forms.gle/XbtsB6dvTmwAiW6W6>

Contact Us:

Please direct all questions to yalephilreview@gmail.com



Yale Philosophy Review

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Reading Group Syllabus

Week 1 (October 27th): Zeno's Paradox of Motion ... and Formal Logic?

1. "[What the Tortoise said to Achilles](#)," by Lewis Carroll. This is a playful, short dialogue about the recursive nature of logic between a fictional Achilles and Tortoise.
2. "[Zeno's Paradoxes](#)" from the Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy summarizing Zeno's paradoxes and important responses. You are ONLY required to read the following sections
 - a. 2. [The Standard Solution to the Paradoxes](#),
 - b. 3.a [Paradoxes of Motion](#)
 - c. 5. [Other Issues Involving the Paradoxes](#)
3. "Three Part Invention," pages 37-40 of *Godel, Escher, Bach* by Douglas Hofstadter. This is another playful dialogue between Achilles and the Tortoise. In this one, Zeno himself makes an appearance.

Week 2 (November 3rd): Infinite Regress in Epistemology

1. "Proof of an External World," by G.E. Moore. Link [here](#).
2. Essays 10, 11, 12, and 13 from *Epistemology: A Guide* by John Turri. These essays explore the problem of infinite regress paradoxes in epistemology. PDF [here](#).
3. "Solving the Skeptical Problem," by Keith DeRose. Link [here](#).

Week 3 (November 10th): Kafka and Borges

1. "[Lottery in Babylon](#)," by Jorge Luis Borges.
2. "[Library of Babel](#)," by Jorge Luis Borges.
3. "[An Imperial Message](#)," by Franz Kafka.

Week 4 (November 17th): Philosophical Writing

1. *Politics and the English Language* by George Orwell. Find the link [here](#).

Week 5 (December 1st): Newcomb's Paradox

Core readings:

1. "Newcomb's Problem and Two Principles of Choice," by Robert Nozick. Find the link [here](#).
2. "Newcomb's Problem: Introduction," by Arif Ahmed. Find the pdf in the drive [here](#).

Optional Readings:



1. "Prisoners' Dilemma is a Newcomb Problem," by David Lewis. Newcomb reframed. Find link [here](#)
2. "Why Ain'cha Rich," by David Lewis. A defense of causal decision theory. Find link [here](#).
3. "Decision Theory in Light of Newcomb's Problem," by Paul Horwich. An attack on causal decision theory. Find link [here](#).
4. [Survey](#) of philosophers' decisions in Newcomb's Paradox.

Week 6 (December 8th): Professor L.A. Paul leads seminar on Transformative Experience

1. "Becoming a Vampire," Chapter 1 of *Transformative Experience* by LA Paul. Find the chapter [here](#).
2. "What You Can't Expect When You're Expecting," by LA Paul in *Res Philosophica* (2015). Find the paper [here](#).