

Introduction to Bioethics
Cleveland Fellowship in Advanced Bioethics
Cleveland Clinic

The following template (by Cathy Birkenstein-Graff) may be useful to help students understand the arguments presented in the readings as well as to help them formulate a good philosophical position that represents their view of the argument.

The general argument made by author _____ her/his work, _____, is that _____.

More specifically, X argues that _____. In other words, X insists that _____.

She/He writes, “_____” (citation). In this passage, X is suggesting that _____. In conclusion, X’s belief is that _____.

In my view, X is wrong/right because _____. More specifically, I believe that _____.

For example, _____. Although X (or a critic of X) might object that _____.

I maintain that _____. Therefore, I conclude that _____.