PHIL 101 Introduction to Philosophy

# Paper Outline

Thesis: In this essay, I will evaluate the movie, *The Matrix*, There are many philosophical issues to address in the movie. I will attempt to make connections to the movie and The Allegory of the Cave. There are many similarities with the philosophical questions brought up in the movie with Plato’s and Descartes. In this essay I will address philosophical issues such as skepticism and the mind-body problem.

1. The movie, *The Matrix* brings forth many philosophical issues. There are many similarities with the movie and examples of philosophical issues presented. Examples of philosophical issues in the movie include Skepticism and the Mind-body problem. There are many similarities in the philosophy set forth by Plato, Descartes and the movie. Plato’s Allegory of the Cave presents many of the same points mentioned in the movie. Descartes and his meditations address many cases that prove identical to the movie, *The Matrix*.
2. Skepticism
   * 1. Define Skepticism. Skepticism is the attitude of doubting knowledge claims set forth in various area.
     2. Examples of Skepticism in the movie.
        + 1. Neo is looking for an answer. It was the question that brought him there, the question being, ‘what is the matrix?’
          2. Morpheus asks Neo to decide if he wants to continue to live in a

simulation or if he wants to experience the truth by taking the other pill.

* + - * 1. Do not try to bend the spoon that’s impossible, instead try to realize the truth.” To which Neo replies, “The truth?” The child continues to explain, “There is no spoon… Then you’ll see that it is not the spoon that bends but yourself

C. Transition into mind body problem. The movie, *The Matrix,* also brings up the philosophical issue of Mind-body problem.

1. Mind-body problem
   1. Define Mind-body problem. The Mind-body problem questions how the mind and body are separate beings.
   2. Example of Mind-body problem in *The Matrix*.
      * 1. When Neo is captured by the agents and has a tracking device inserted into his body. He then wakes up to a nightmare. The reaction to the situation presents the Mind-body problem.
        2. When Morpheus tells Neo, “Have you ever had a dream so real? What if you weren’t able to wake up from that dream? How would you know the difference between the dream world and the real world?”
        3. Mind-body problem in the Matrix is when Neo is told what happens when you die in the matrix. He is told, “Your mind makes it real, and your body cannot live without the mind.”
   3. Transition into the Plato’s Allegory of the Cave. There are similar questions raised in Plato’s Allegory of the Cave.
2. Plato’s Allegory of the Cave
   1. Brief description of the Allegory of the Cave. Plato’s The Allegory of the Cave tells a story of prisoners.
   2. Example of the Allegory of the Cave in the movie.
      * 1. Morpheus explains to Neo that his life has been living inside a computer simulation. He does not know what is going on in the real world because he has been inside a computer simulation.
        2. Accept the truth and asks Morpheus, “I can’t go back can I?” To which

Morpheus responds, “No, but if you could, would you really want to?”

* 1. Transition into Descartes. Many of these philosophical issues are addressed in many of Descartes meditations.

1. Descartes
   1. Brief Descartes and his views. According to the PhilosophyTube, “Descartes was famous for [his] view called dualism.”
   2. Example of Descartes work and the movie.
      * 1. Morpheus asks Neo, “What is real? How do you define it? What you smell taste and feel it is only electrical signals sent to your brain.”
        2. Cipher, is preparing to betray Morpheus and Neo, is eating a steak in the matrix, he tells Agent Smith, “he knows this steak doesn’t exist, but it tastes so juicy and delicious.”
        3. “Tasty Wheat, how did the machines know what tasty wheat tasted like?

Maybe what I thought tasted like tuna fish, tasted like chicken.” C. Transition into the Conclusion.

1. In conclusion, the movie *The Matrix* many philosophical issues have been addressed.

Issues such as Skepticism and Mind-Body problem were present in the movie. They presented similarities between some of Plato’s and Descartes works. Plato’s Allegory of the Cave being one of the similarities and Descartes’ disbelief of his physical senses were all present in the movie.

# Work Cited

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