

The Stimulus - Possible Arguments

- Humans are made solely of material
- Minds can be instantiated in many physical forms
- Others?

Introduction

- Begin your intro by briefly describing the video (1 sentence) and the argument it makes (1 additional sentence)
- Your thesis will either accept or reject the position asserted by the video
- If your thesis accepts the video's materialistic perspective, it should indicate the direction of your argument - i.e. - why materialism is true. This might take the form of arguing for **one** of the materialist theories we have studied.
- If your thesis rejects the video's materialistic perspective, it should indicate why, both in terms of the problems inherent to materialistic theories (as a whole) and also the superiority of dualism as an explanation for the mind body question.
- Note: You only preview your main lines of argument in the introduction. Save the details for your argument. Thesis and preview should not be longer than three sentences total (which means the introduction as a whole should not be more than seven to eight sentences).

Body

	Thesis rejects materialism	Thesis supports materialism
Argument	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Weaknesses of materialistic arguments (problem of consciousness)•Transition to explanation of dualism (“dualism does not suffer from this problem because ...”)•Argument in favor of dualism (this must include both a description of the basic mechanics of the theory and arguments supporting the validity of the theory)•Remember, all key terms must be defined!	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Basic argument on behalf of materialism in general•Argument on behalf of a specific materialist theory (Eliminative materialism, Mind-Brain identity, Functionalism, Behaviorism)•Your discussion of the specific materialist theory should explain the theory and explain (argue) why the theory is true.•Remember, all key terms must be defined!
Counter Argument	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Transition that indicates that you will now consider (and explain away) a perceived weakness of this theory•(At the very least) The problem of interaction (how it arises and why it is a problem)•If possible, other weaknesses should be considered as well (category error, ghost in the machine, Occam’s Razor, the problem of other minds)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Transition that indicates that you will now consider (and explain away) a perceived weakness of this theory•(At the very least) The problem of consciousness (how it arises and why it is a problem)•If possible other weaknesses should be considered as well (weaknesses are specific to each materialist theory)
Repair	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Your explanation (argument) of how the counter arguments are resolved. All counter arguments must be addressed.•This section must be a development of your argument, not simply a restatement of it.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Your explanation (argument) of how the counter arguments are resolved. All counter arguments must be addressed•This section must be a development of your argument, not simply a restatement of it.

Body

	Thesis rejects materialism	Thesis supports materialism (MBI specific)
Argument	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Materialism does not explain consciousness. Support drawn from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Chalmers •Nagel •Jackson •Explanation of dualism which includes both a discussion of the basic elements of the theory and an analysis of how it can explain consciousness. Support drawn from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Descartes •Rauhut (consider the various arguments on behalf of Dualism here) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Description of materialist theories •Explanation of Mind-Brain identity as an example of a physical theory •Explanation of how MBI adequately explains the mind •Support drawn from Rauhut, Churchland
Counter Argument	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Rauhut •Ryle in Rauhut •Dennett •Possibly elements of Churchland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The Problem of Consciousness. Support drawn from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Chalmers •Nagel •Jackson •The problem of Chauvinism. Support drawn from Rauhut, Churchland
Repair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Be creative, but your creativity should be based in evidence and logic. Here is an additional <u>resource that you might want to examine</u>. Pay attention to the introduction and the sections on interaction and property dualism. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Repair using the arguments of Dennett. Support drawn from videos on-line and notes from class. •Chauvinism argument repaired by functionalism (functionalism can be argued to be an evolution or a development of the materialist thinking that began with MBI) •Your application for the Kyoto Prize here

The Readings

- Rauhut (1-13) - good for overview. Should not be used over a more specific/primary source.
- Churchland (end of the packet) - Good details on all four varieties of materialist theory, complete with strengths and weaknesses.
- Jackson “The Qualia Problem” (16-17). What physicalism leaves out, two good thought experiments. Qualia.
- Nagel “What is it like to Be a Bat?” (17-19). The objective description of the subjective problem. Limits on conception and imagination. Shortcomings of physicalism. Any discussion of consciousness should cite this.
- Chalmers “Facing Up to the Problem of Consciousness” (19). Best straightforward definition of Consciousness. Hard and easy problems. Examples of consciousness.
- Searle “Minds Brains and Programs” (20). Chinese Room thought experiment. Arguments against functionalism. Understanding v. following procedures.
- Schneider and Dennett (21). Rejection of the hard problem consciousness. Rejection of the objective/subjective problem of understanding consciousness. Rebuilding materialist theories after hurricane consciousness.
- More on Dennett
- More on Dualism