

Notes on seminar presentations

The aim of the seminar presentations is for you to get practice presenting a certain philosophical view to the rest of the seminar so as to facilitate a critical discussion of it.

First you should give as charitable an interpretation of the work as you can and then raise some critical questions about it.

Your presentation must address the following:

1. What is the topic of the paper?
2. What is the main claim made?
3. Are there arguments given for the claim? Present the strongest one
4. What is your evaluation of the argument?
5. Raise two questions for the seminar

Some questions to think about:

What might the author's motivation be?

What does she or he take themselves to be doing?

What is the context of the debate?

What is attractive about the view?

What is unattractive?

What are the main assumptions the author makes?

Can you offer an internal critique of the view, ie, a critique that takes the author's assumptions as given?

Can you offer an external critique, ie, a critique that relies on questioning some of the assumptions the author makes?