

Outline workshop

Groups of 4, 20 minutes per person.

- **10 minutes:** Present the argument, including drawing it out in diagrammatic form. The audience only interrupts for clarificatory questions, such as:
 - terminology with which you are unfamiliar
 - checking if you understood the author's view if you are unsure.
- **10 minutes:** Audience raises challenges, such as:
 - substantive objections to the view or to the argument given
 - potential problem cases or undesirable consequences of the view
 - missed connections to the literature, or clarifications of how the view relates to other views we have discussed
 - points that are interesting but under-explored, or that the author should highlight more...

The goals as an audience member:

- Help the author locate weaknesses and strengths in the project.
 - Think of how the question and thesis could be refocused, reframed, made more direct (ask yourself: what is the presented really trying to say? What really is their focus? How much is it feasible for them to achieve in a paper?)
 - Look for gaps in the argument: points where the author jumps from one idea to another without being clear about how the former supports the latter.

The goal as a presenter: be open to really changing your project, by reframing or restricting your question; arguing for the opposite view you thought you would argue for; developing a new argument... The goal is NOT to defend your original idea, but **to search for the most interesting version of your paper possible.**

Outline worksheet

For **one** of the outlines in your group (write down which), answer the following:

- How would you phrase the question the author is addressing?
- What is one clarificatory question you had? (example: terminology you didn't get, unclarity on what the central claim is, on how an objection works...)
- What is a gap in the argument that you noted?
- What is one point that you think the presenter should center more to make their paper more interesting?
- What is one worry you had about the view the author was trying to defend?

About **your own outline**, answer the following:

- How would you phrase your question now?
- What is one point you have realized you need to clarify?
- What is a gap in the argument that you realized was there?
- What is one point that you will highlight more in your paper?
- What is the objection you will consider? (This could be the same as in your outline, or a new one that arose in discussion – write down which)