

Philosophy of Science Paper 1

General Physics

The Set-Up:

In his book, *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*, Thomas Kuhn writes, “The more carefully [scientists] study, say, Aristotelian dynamics, phlogistic chemistry, or caloric thermodynamics, the more certain they feel that those once current views of nature were, as a whole, neither less scientific nor more the product of human idiosyncrasy than those current today.” All that to say that even following logical reasoning and sound experimentation, one can still arrive at conclusions that later prove to be false.

The Prompt:

Pick one of the following prompts to address in an argumentative essay supported by evidence.

- 1) *How do we distinguish science from non-science? For example, why is astronomy a science and astrology not? How might Kuhn answer this question? Do you agree or disagree with Kuhn's position? Why or why not?*
- 2) *How can you be sure that what you're taught today in science will be true tomorrow? How might Kuhn answer this question? Do you agree or disagree with Kuhn's position? Why or why not?*

Requirements:

- 12 pt font
- Double-spaced
- Standard margins
- Times New Roman, Ariel, or Helvetica
- 3-5 pages
- At least 3 direct quotes from Kuhn

Due Date: Monday, September 14