

The Republic: Reading Questions # 1

Read the introduction to *The Republic* (pages 1-55) and respond to the following.

1. During the introduction to *The Republic* Socrates conducts a spirited debate with Cephalus, Polemarchus, Thrasymachus, Glaucon, and Adeimantus about how justice ought to be defined. Each of these characters has a unique view of justice, and some define justice in more than one way. How does each character define justice? How does Socrates respond? How should justice be defined?

For each character *and* each definition (some characters present more than 1 definition of justice), complete the following:

- a. Summarize the character's definition(s), *using your own words*;
 - b. Identify one or more quotations from the text (citing the page) which captures the essence of that definition;
 - c. Describe an example from *modern life* which helps illustrate your understanding of that definition; and
 - d. Summarize Socrates' response to each character's view.
2. Which definition of justice do you ultimately find most persuasive? Do you agree with any of the proposed definitions, or with Socrates' responses? Why?
3. Finally, how do you define justice?

Your response to question #1 should be organized as a series of separate, *multi-paragraph sections* corresponding to each of the 5 characters with whom Socrates conducts his dialogue. Responses to questions #2 and #3 should be presented in separate paragraphs each. **Single sentence responses to the foregoing prompts are not sufficient.**

Your paper should be typewritten, double-spaced, and is due on **Wednesday, September 12th**.