

PHIL001. INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY – GOD, SELLING TICKETS TO THE AFTERLIFE

God has revealed himself to mortals and so now everyone knows that God exists. After revealing himself, God put out the following proclamation:

I, the philosophical God of all, will admit into paradise only those who know the true argument for my existence. This argument is the strongest of all philosophical arguments! Those who fail to know the true reason for my existence will perish.

Unfortunately, God did not reveal which one of the three arguments proves he exists. Because of God's proclamation, selling arguments for God's existence has become big business. In the following philosophical game, you will be assigned one of the following arguments and asked to "convert" a neutral customer.

**ARGUMENTS FOR GOD'S EXISTENCE**

- (1) **Cosmological Argument**
- (2) **Teleological Argument**
- (3) **Ontological Argument**

Your goal is to develop a sales pitch for your argument keeping in mind that the main worry of your customer is **whether or not the argument for God's existence is the strongest**.

*Positive Strategies*

- (1) First, create a brochure for your argument that gives an overview of your argument (using a diagram will help). Second, make sure that you are able to clearly articulate each one of the premises of your argument. Third, be prepared to respond to any objections to your argument that might be lingering in your customer's mind. Let your customer know that their worries are justified but you can put their objection to rest with a persuasive, easy to understand, response.
- (2) Make sure you clearly state and give reasons why *your* argument is particularly strong.

*Negative Strategies*

- (1) Your customers have to choose one argument. One way of convincing them to use yours is to show that the other arguments are not to be trusted. You might draw a diagram that shows that rival arguments will lead to *death* rather than to the afterlife.
- (2) Make sure you clearly state and give reasons why *other* arguments for God's existence will lead to the death of your customer.