

Origins of Ethics

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Reading philosophy

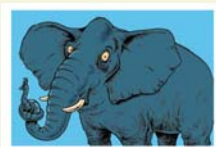


Most of what you read, and almost all I say is misleading or wildly inaccurate. At least, that's what I say. So...

- Be alert
- Be questioning
- Be critical
- Be careful
- Be suspicious

To the reading...

- Core philosophical skills
 - Thesis
 - Exegesis
 - Argument
 - Style



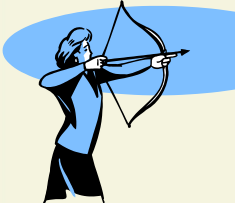
Look for the core skills

Background

- Naturalism
 - What in the world is ethics?




Thesis



- What's she aiming at?

Exegesis

- Distinguish two questions about the origins of ethics
- The social contract
 - What is it?
 - What's wrong with it?
- Darwin's suggestion
 - What is it?



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Argument



- Did Midgley hit her target?

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What was the target again?




- The historical origin?
- The source of ethical authority?
- Is there a link?

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Philosophy gives the means to speak with apparent authority on all matters, and to make oneself admired by the less learned; while law, medicine and the other sciences bring honor and riches upon their practitioners.

– Rene Descartes, Discourse on Method
