

ENG 1213: Plato's "Allegory of the Cave"

Summary Worksheet

To help you summarize the important sections of Plato's allegory, I've created the following breakdown of the story. Under each heading, describe what happens in this part of "Allegory of the Cave" **in your own words**. Use parenthetical notations to cite page numbers for specific references and include a work cited entry for the "Allegory of the Cave" at the end of your assignment. Save this as a DOC file (or other accepted format) and submit it in the ASSIGNMENT area of the WebCT site by October 18th, midnight.

Section 1: Imprisoned in the Cave

Section 2: The Escape

Section 3: Adjusting to the Light

Section 4: Basking in the Light

Section 5: The Return to the Cave

Section 6: Freedom

Miscellaneous Bits: What does Plato say about each of these in connection to the journey to enlightenment? You will not find all of this in "Allegory of the Cave." I've provided links to supplemental information that will help you here. You can find these links in the Plato lecture notes and under the Unit 3 assignment area at <http://kellimcbride.com/units.htm#plato>

1. **The Philosopher King vs. the Rogue:** Plato discusses the issue of educating leaders (Philosopher Kings) and what factors help keep other people in the dark – even when they know they are not seeking truth (Rogues). Research these terms and define them below as Plato would describe them.
 - a. Describe the Philosopher King:
 - b. Describe the Rogue:
2. **Knowledge:** People disagree about how humans acquire knowledge. Two terms that represent opposing theories of learning are "innatism" and "tabula rasa." Define both of these below, and then explain how Plato fits into this argument. How does he believe we acquire knowledge?
3. **The worlds of Being and Becoming:** As simply as possible, distinguish between the two worlds and explain why understanding this distinction is important in order to grasp Plato's discussion of enlightenment. You will not find these answers clearly in

“The Allegory of the Cave.” See the class lecture notes or links I have posted on our web site.

- a. The World of Being:
- b. The World of Becoming: