

Analysis of the Crito

The Crito is a story about Socrates and his friend Crito. Socrates is in an Athenian prison and is waiting to be executed in a few days. He was put into jail for “corrupting” the youth. Crito, Socrates’ dear friend tries to persuade him to escape from prison and be exiled. Crito has everything planned for Socrates. Crito tells Socrates that this would be his last chance to escape, and that he should take it, but he refuses.

(44c-44d) Premise: Socrates asks why we should care about what the majority thinks

Premise: The most reasonable people should gain more attention, because they will believe that things will be done as they were done.

Conclusion: Socrates says that they cannot make a man better or worse, the majority just does things.

Premise: Crito asks why we should listen to the majority

Conclusion: Crito says that we should listen to the majority because they can inflict the greatest evils, they decide our fate.

(46d -46e) Premise: one must pay attention to the opinion of the majority

Premise: One should greatly value some people’s opinions, but not others

Conclusion: One should value the good opinions and not the bad ones

(46d-47d) **Premise:** One should greatly value some people’s opinions, but not others

Analogy/premise: If a man was engaged in physical training, would he listen to anyone or a doctor or trainer

Sub Conclusion/Premise: The man engaged in physical training should solely listen to the blame and praise of the doctor or trainer

Sub Conclusion: If he disobeys the doctor or trainer and disregards his praises and values those of people who have no knowledge he will suffer

Premise: One should value the good opinions and not the bad ones

Conclusion: One should value the opinion of people who have knowledge rather than those who don’t

Comment [dp1]: A question is not a premise. All premises must be statements. So either translate this into a statement if it is a rhetorical question that actually makes a claim or move forward in the dialogue until you find a statement that deals with this issue.

Comment [dp2]: “Should”. Unfortunately, almost they always do not gain enough attention. Look at how many thoughtless and uninformed opinions dominate our current political scene today. Why don’t the best views gain proper attention?

Comment [dp3]: This is a **premise** for the conclusion that we should not be persuaded by the majority. You also have this out of order. Should come after Crito’s argument about this issue.

Comment [dp4]: Again, questions cannot be premises. Answers to such questions can be.

Comment [dp5]: Premise indicator

Comment [dp6]: premise

Comment [dp7]: This is the conclusion of Crito’s argument, not the premise.

Comment [dp8]: How can we tell the difference?

(47e) Premise: life is not worth living when part of us is corrupted or unjust

Premise: is the part of us that is concerned with justice and injustice inferior to the body

Conclusion: The part of us that is concerned with justice and injustice is much more valuable than others.

Comment [dp9]: The conclusion of this line of reasoning is that even more so than listening to good advice about the health of the body, we should be even more concerned about the good reasoning of those who are wise about higher matters of justice

(48b) Premise: Most important thing is not life, but the good life

Premise: The good life, the beautiful life and the just life are the same

Conclusion: Live the good life by being just

(48d) Premise: Would we be acting rightly if you give money to those who will help me escape?

Conclusion: If it appears we are acting unjust we will have no need to proceed with the escape

(49a- 49e) Premise: One should never do wrong in return, nor injure any man, whatever injury one has suffered at his hands

Premise: there is no common ground between the men who agree with our views and the men that don't, but in the end they both hate the others views.

Conclusion: a wrong is never right, not even to injure in return for an injury received. An eye for eye makes the whole world blind.

(49e) Premise: When one has come to an agreement that is just with someone, should they uphold the agreement and keep their word?

Conclusion One should fulfill the agreement or lose their virtue and word.

(50b) Premise: By carrying out your action to escape you intend to destroy us, the laws and the whole city

Premise: If the people of Athens do not follow the verdict of the courts will the city be able to survive

Conclusion: It would be unjust to leave the prison because he would be ignoring the law and essentially destroying the city.

(51a) Premise: If you choose to preside in a city you have follow their rules, it is an implied agreement

Premise: Why destroy this city, when this city has give you your whole life, brought your mother and father together.

Conclusion: You don't have the right to retaliate against your country and its laws because you had the option to leave if you didn't like it here, you made an agreement now you must live with your decision.

(52e-53c)Premise: Breaking the agreement with the state would be wrong

Premise: Escaping will strengthen the conviction of the jury, proving that they passed the right sentence on you

Premise: If you escape to another city you will be seen as the destroyer of laws, and no one will want you in their city.

Conclusion: Escaping would put a man's most precious possession, virtue and justice tarnished. If I am to escape, my life will not be worth living because I will have lost my virtue and justice.

(53d-54a) Premise: Escaping and exiling my kids from their home is not the best thing for them. I would rather have my kids raised without a father then to have them be strangers in a foreign city and deprive them of the Athenian education that is most trusted.

Conclusion: Is it better to stay then risk the well being of my children and uphold my goodness.

Final Conclusion: To uphold his Virtue, Socrates will stay in prison and uphold the decision of the court.

Comments: I have made a few comments in the first page to guide you. Also look online to see other examples that will help you. You do get some of the most important parts of the argument right, but still need improvement. GRADE: B