In this presentation, I aim to address four main subjects to showcase that students ought to study philosophy.

1. **What is Philosophy?**
   - The etymology of Philosophy is derived from the Greek word “philosophia”, where “philos” means to love and “sophia” means wisdom, i.e., to love wisdom.
   - One might question what wisdom is, which I define to be a body of knowledge that is acquired through experience of the world and appropriately applied in circumstances. By appropriate I mean making the most fitting judgments in one’s circumstances.
   - The more technical definition of philosophy is the study of the fundamental arguments of concepts such as the nature of being, knowledge, ethics, phenomena of the world, and aesthetics.
   - Philosophers contribute a great deal to the development of societies. Notably, one such person is the political philosopher John Locke, who wrote the ‘Two Treatises of Government’. These two treaties introduced the ideas of liberty and the restraint of infringement on liberty. His ideas would later be incorporated into the U.S. constitution.
   - Philosophy, among other things, seeks to address many of the pertinent dilemmas we face in our lives. One of those dilemmas is ethical in nature: what to do when faced with the dichotomy of choosing to save the many people over the few; i.e., the ‘Trolley Problem.’ This problem exemplifies the dilemma by placing you in a trolley hurtling to a fork in the railroad ahead. On one side is one person tied to the tracks and the other side are many tied to the tracks. Who are you going to save?

2. **What can Philosophy teach us?**
   - Philosophy can teach us how to form arguments and look for fallacious ones. Once we become more familiar with recognizing the pattern of arguments, we can learn how to effectively form our own.
   - Fallacious arguments could follow the correct argumentative structure (formally valid), but the content of the premises can still be false (informationally invalid). Some politicians employ these arguments to convince people to support them.
   - There are two types of reasoning: inductive and deductive. The former makes a general conclusion supported by premises based on observation that follow to the conclusion. The latter makes a specific claim supported by premises based on facts and logic, and directly follows to the conclusion.
   - Some philosophical contributions are Hobbes’ ‘State of Nature’, Kant’s ‘Categorical Imperative’, Rawls’ ‘Veil of Ignorance’, who propose that we ought to act in a specific manner (normative ethics) as well as how to act (descriptive ethics).
   - Ultimately, knowing how to argue and comprehend complex arguments can improve our listening and speaking, reading and writing skills because one will be exposed and accustomed to more difficult vocabulary, concepts, and discussions.

3. **What are the benefits of learning Philosophy?**
   - To answer this question, I point out that Philosophy aids one in solving problems and researching material relevant to one’s studies/interests. In light of this enormous benefit, it is crucial that people employ the skills developed by philosophy to accomplish the primary goals, whatever they may be, that each of us prioritize.
   - At this moment, the student knows what arguments look like—the good and bad ones. They already know how to analyze arguments. One can now form arguments by using the ideas of other arguments to reinforce their own as well as appeal to empirical data; refute an idea altogether and start from scratch. In other words, develop and search for one’s own conclusion, premises and reasons for those premises.
   - Moreover, those who know how to form their own arguments from their experience and knowledge can express ideas thereby and persuasively. Of course, with any argument, it is subject to criticism. However, one with a thorough understanding of argumentation will welcome any criticism as a means to refining one’s own argument. Being able to foresee objections is very important to developing one’s own idea.
   - Furthermore, students with excellent critical thinking skills, who engage in research studies, can understand the arguments conveyed by scholars that published work in their field of research. This is where analyzing arguments becomes so crucial, since many conclusions are based on principles or premises which are supported by empirical work of other researchers.
   - In Philosophy may apply his analytical skills in, for example, Qualitative Organic Analysis. The structure of an unknown compound can be deduced from known qualitative characteristics of reactions with specific molecules (functional groups). Being able to analyze concepts in chemistry allows one to take them apart premise by premise as well as understand why these premises are considered true and others false.

4. **Applying what we’ve learned from Philosophy.**
   - “To learn, and then have [the] occasion to practice what you have learned—is this not satisfying?” — Confucius.
   - Analytical and critical thinking skills have virtually unlimited use in every field of study.
   - From social issues to biology even the creative arts, applying analytical and critical thinking skills helps one to understand the fundamentals of any concept in any field of study because those fundamental ideas are usually principles that have basic arguments. Understanding these fundamentals allows one to develop more complex and abstract ideas, refining one’s problem-solving skills, which often lead to creative and effective solutions to problems that impact individuals and the world at large.
   - A student studying chemistry that has a background in Philosophy may apply his analytical skills in, for example, Qualitative Organic Analysis. The structure of an unknown compound can be deduced from known qualitative characteristics of reactions with specific molecules (functional groups). Being able to analyze concepts in chemistry allows one to take them apart premise by premise as well as understand why these premises are considered true and others false.
   - An apprentice painter with a background in Philosophy can make use of her analytical skills and ponder about what subject will invoke provocative responses from people. “Artists . . . ponder things, people, politics, nature, mathematics, science, and religion. They observe [their] color, texture, contrast, and emotion”, analyzing and the peculiarities of each concept to determine what to convey to their audience.

**Conclusion:**

Thus, bringing these four notions together, showcase that possessing a minor or a major in philosophy would give students the necessary skills to explore the world, whatever their interests may be. Studying Philosophy improves a student’s ability to analyze and criticize arguments, think about more abstract and complex concepts and dilemmas, and form effective solutions to those problems.

**References:**

   
   Available at: https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/ijes/vol5/iss2/1.

