Indiana High School Outreach Program

Abstract:

I will discuss the outreach program I started in Muncie, Indiana. The **relevant issue** is starting a pre-college philosophy program. The **purpose** of my session will be to explain what I have done in order to share with others who are interested in starting their own programs and to get feedback from others on how I can improve the program in Indiana.

The project has four elements, and I expect there to be **discussion themes** around each:

1. We maintain a weekly **high school philosophy club** at the local high school.
2. We make **outreach** visits to schools through Indiana. To date, we have made 16 outreach visits. We have visited schools both with existing clubs and we have visited high school classes. We led open-ended discussions with the high school students on topics such as censorship and ethics, and then the Ball State students field questions about their own experiences with philosophy and college in general.
3. We have started an annual **conference**. In spring 2018, we hosted the inaugural Conference for Pre-College Philosophical Engagement at Ball State. Grant. The conference was free to high school students from throughout Indiana.
4. Finally, the program has created various **resources** for high school learners and teachers, including handouts for teachers interested in integrating philosophy education into their classrooms and a packet for high school students interested in learning more about philosophy.

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Dr. Sarah Vitale is Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Ball State University. Her research focuses on Marx and post-Marxism, especially on the notions of production and labor. She is Co-Editor of the *Radical Philosophy Review*, the journal of the Radical Philosophy Association, and her publications include “Castoriadis, Marx, and the Critique of Productivism” (*Telos* 174).  At Ball State, Vitale teaches classes on contemporary philosophy, especially 19th- and 20th-century continental philosophy and critical theory.