

Mr. Wittmann - Week 2 (September 14th, 2017)

Below is the answer to the homework question.

Autonomy is the freedom of being able to decide for oneself by using one's own rationality. Philosophy promotes autonomy because when trying to find the answer to a philosophical question, you use your rationality to help bring you to a conclusion. An example of this is when Aristotle and Copernicus both proposed that their theories were right regarding what planet or star was in the centre of the universe and why. They both explained their side of the argument and were making their decisions based on their rationality. When Copernicus said that he believed the Sun was in the centre, it was because he rationally thought that was the right answer (and because of his scientific reasoning). Philosophy is something that you are never finished with - You are always trying to find an answer or at least get closer to one. In order to do this, you have to use your rationality to guide you, or else you will go nowhere. As mentioned in *The Problem with Philosophy*, once you open your mind and it is alone operative, that is when you've obtained the desire for knowledge, and with that you have the freedom to use your rationality to decide anything.