



Week 1 RSI Focus: Making Announcements that Matter

Dear Faculty,

RSI starts with you!

Kick off the term with instructor-initiated communication that is timely, relevant, and connected to learning!

RSI TIP: Use AI to improve your announcement!

Post a Weekly Announcement

- Highlights the 1st week of semester
- Shares a learning tip or success strategy
- Requests a reply (good one!)
- Promotes a campus resource (Success Center, Falcon's Nest, etc.)
- Offers encouraging support to students

Example Announcements

Students, Let's Start the Semester Strong!

Welcome to our Philosophy course! I'm very glad you're here.

The first week sets the tone for the entire semester, so I encourage you to start strong by completing the readings, engaging with the ideas, and asking questions early when something feels confusing. Philosophy is not about memorizing facts; it's about learning how to think carefully, clearly, and critically.

Reminder!

Your first assignment: the Chapter 1 Reading Response — is due this week (check Canvas for the exact date and time). Please don't wait until the last minute, make sure to give yourself time to read, reflect, and write thoughtfully.

A Note on Chapter 1 (Common Point of Confusion)

Many students are understandably confused by the discussion of Plato in Chapter 1, especially the idea that Plato believed the “real” world is not the one we see.

To clarify:

Plato argued that the physical world is constantly changing and imperfect, so it cannot be the highest form of reality or knowledge. Instead, he proposed that true knowledge comes from the Forms - perfect, unchanging concepts (like Justice, Beauty, or Equality) that exist beyond the physical world. When we recognize patterns or ideas, Plato would say we are glimpsing these Forms, not just observing physical objects. So Plato is not saying the physical world is fake or meaningless - he is saying it is not the most reliable source of knowledge.

If this still feels abstract or strange, that’s completely normal and a great reason to bring questions to discussion or office hours.

Final thought: Philosophy often begins with confusion, and that’s a good thing. Lean into it, stay curious, and don’t be afraid to ask “Wait... what does that really mean?” That’s exactly what philosophers do.

Looking forward to an engaging semester with you.

— Professor Lopez

For more information about Regular and Substantive Interaction (RSI), please visit the [CTX website](#).

Thank you for the care you continue to show your students.

CTX Staff

“Your partner in Professional Growth”



Center for Teaching Excellence (CTX)

11110 Alondra Blvd., Norwalk, CA 90650

Office: (562) 860-2451, Ext. 2797 or 2799

Email: CTX@cerritos.edu

Website: www.cerritos.edu/ctx