Writing the Political Philosophy Paper: Threshold Concepts and Troublesome Knowledge
1) My Motivation

2) Threshold Concepts and Troublesome Knowledge

3) Application to Position Papers in Political Philosophy

4) Final Thoughts
Motivation

- Former English Teacher
- Good Grades
- Crushed by Political Philosophy
Threshold Concept

- New way of thinking
- Portal to inaccessible knowledge
- After successfully passing through, can continue forward with other areas of subject
Threshold Concept in Economics

- Opportunity Cost
- Moving beyond supply, demand and price
- Recognition of choosing alternatives among scarcity
Core Concepts vs. Threshold Concepts

- Core Concepts: Building Blocks
- Threshold Concepts: Fundamentally alter thinking
Characteristics of Threshold Concepts

1) Transformative
2) Irreversible
3) Integrative
4) Bounded
5) Troublesome
Troublesome Knowledge

- Emotional difficulties of discarding past knowledge
- Without understanding Threshold Concept, can be stuck
Pedagogy

- Sequence contents appropriately
- Recognize student recursiveness
- Evaluation
IR Meets Political Philosophy

- A general broad attack on a writing
- Focus on realistic possibilities
- Positivist over Normative
Focus on one idea

Think Normatively

Look at argument, not implementation
Final Words

- Students might avoid Threshold Concepts
- Teacher might have to do hand-holding
Q’s

- Do you have any questions?
Contact Info

- siddiqui123@gmail.com