First-Year Seminar *Mind and Brain* Fall 2011

First paper assignment

Reading for Tuesday, Sept. 13 is the excerpt from the *Theaetetus* dialogue, attached.

Paper topic: In *Theaetetus*, Socrates offers the following summary of Protagorus’ position:

“Truth is only sensation, and no man can discern another’s feelings better than he, or has any superior right to determine whether his opinion is true or false, but each … is to himself the sole judge, and everything that he judges is true and right.”

What are the most powerful arguments Socrates marshals to refute this view? Is there any room left for Protagorus to defend his position?

Write an essay of approximately 2 double-spaces pages, print it out, and bring it to class on Tuesday, September 13.

Suggestions:

* No extended quotes
* Title optional
* No footnotes
* No bibliography

Anti-plagiarism advice: take notes (if you wish) in your own words, and write the paper without looking at the original text of the dialogue.