Philosophy [Simple Definition]

Philosophy is asking the types of questions a child would ask...
And answering them in the manner of a lawyer.

Philosophy

“Philosophy is a challenging activity undertaken by human beings who are deeply concerned about who they are and what everything means.” (Honor)

* The word philosophy comes from Greek words *philein* “to love” *Sophia* “wisdom” The original meaning of a philosopher was someone who a had “a love for wisdom”
Philosophy [Class Definition]

A philosopher attempts to study reality, truth, value and meaning by critically analyzing and evaluating the fundamental assumptions of our beliefs.

The Three Major Branches of Philosophy

- Metaphysics
- Epistemology
- Axiology
Metaphysics

- The branch of philosophy that examines the nature of reality, including the relationship between mind and matter, substance and attribute, fact and value (American Heritage Dictionary).
- Metaphysics attempts to answer the question “what is real?”

Epistemology

- A branch of philosophy that investigates the origin, nature, methods, and limits of human knowledge (Dictionary.com v 1.1).
- Epistemology attempts to answer the question “how do we know what we know?”
Axiology

• the branch of philosophy dealing with values, as those of ethics and aesthetics (Dictionary.com v 1.1)

• Axiology asks “what is good?”, “what is of worth”, “what is beauty”
There is much overlap between disciplines—with conclusions in one area having important implications for others...