Philosophy: Inception Movie Guide

Directions: answer the following questions using the themes of Philosophy.

Metaphysics:

* Throughout the film, Cobb and his team attempt to control the perceptions of individuals so as manipulate their reality. Is the saying “perception is reality” true?
* Would you give up the ability to dream normally if it meant that you could share dreams like they do in this film? Why or why not?
* Do you think the top stops spinning? Is Cobb dreaming or is he awake? Does it matter?

Epistemology:

* Cobb is held captive by his memories, and tells Ariadne that he must change these memories to make things right. How do memories, especially bad memories, continue to hold onto us? Can we ever escape our memories?
* Cobb and his team have the ability to change other people’s memories. Do you think this is possible? Can our memories be changed or altered at all?

Ethics:

* Cobb and his team are involved in corporate espionage. Are there ever times when breaking the law is the right thing to do? Why or why not?
* Cobb attempts to save Saito, even though doing so might mean that he never returns to reality. Why do you think he is willing to do this? Are there commitments in your life that you feel you can never make good on?

Logic:

* Cobb keeps his team in the dark regarding the fact that his wife is continually entering and affecting his dreams in violent ways. Why do you think he kept this information to himself? Can you think of times you have not shared vital information with your family, friends, or team? What was your reasoning?
* How did Cobb convince his team that what they were doing was right? Did he use any logical fallacies in doing this?

Politics:

* Cobb is a fugitive and has fled the United States, leaving his children behind. Do you believe his actions were justified? Would you ever leave someone you loved behind to avoid legal consequences, or to protect them?
* Cobb and his team are tasked with planting the idea to dissolve his father’s company in the mind of an energy tycoon. Saito says that if this does not occur the company will become its own superpower. Do you believe that any one company should be able to control an entire sector of the world’s energy, or any other resources? Discuss.