

## PHI 315 Nov 8 Paper III Workshop

### General

Here is what your syllabus says about your upcoming paper:

Paper III: The third paper is very similar to the second but includes the following differences. First, you must include a reflection on the second essay and the feedback you received and explain what you did different. Two, now you must do it in response to the newly covered content, namely, personal identity and ar/vr. Aside from that, you must still do the same thing you did in paper II, including responding to another student's comment. (18% of your final grade, due end of day November 15).

So, today I am going to give you general feedback and also allow you to ask me about your particular feedback on the paper.

Also, here is an outline that I expect:

### Sample Outline

**Section One: Introduction** Here, you will explain what the paper is about, namely the topics we covered and the media in question, specifically pertaining to virtual and artificial reality and how personal identity factors into that. Here is also where you state your thesis. Your thesis should be straightforward. For example: "Total Recall convinced me that personal identity consists in memories, and therefore in psychological continuity over time. Therefore, I will argue, that memory is crucial to our persistence." Something along those lines. If your thesis is about reality, or something along those lines: "San Junipero convinced me that reality is experiential, and so is identity, thus I will argue that a mind upload is a plausible way to continue past the death of the body."

**Section Two: Thoughts Before** Much like in the prior paper, here you will explain your thoughts in regard to your topic prior to the media that we consumed. I want to know how you thought about this before you were exposed to the philosophical frameworks and the movies we have seen.

**Section Three: Media in Question** Unlike last paper, I do not want a summary. Here, I want an explanation of how your chosen media (or more than one), made you think about the issue. How it changed your perception (if at all), and so on. For example: "whereas I used to think that personal identity consisted in material arrangement, Total Recall convinced me that it is instead our memories. Here is how ...". Something along those lines is what I am looking for. **It is here that I want you to reference something that another student said. This is mandatory.**

**Section Four: Argument** Here, I want you to defend your view in section one, the final view you have for now. I want you to state it clearly, and then explain why you hold it to be true. Defend it. Come up with a counterargument and then refute it. For example: "Now, some say that materiality and the arrangement thereof does not capture the psychological aspect of our identity. However, I content that there is nothing over and above to our psychological

state beyond the materiality that comprises it, show me something nonphysical and I will change my mind, and therefore, the psychological just is the physical”.

**Section Five: Reflection** Here, I want a very brief explanation of how feedback affected you. Some of you wrote a paper that needed to feedback. But the general feedback still applies to you: focus on the argument, since almost no one explicitly did. Reflect on how focusing on the argument itself made the paper different for you.

**Section Six: Sources** Put sources here.