

Paper #3

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PHIL 30304

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Your third paper is due on Tuesday, 11/20. It should be handed in by email attachment.

In this paper, your aim is to explain your view of personal identity over time, saying along the way how you respond to various of Parfit's arguments.

1. Parfit lays out three families of views about personal identity: (i) non-reductionism, (ii) the physical criterion, and (iii) the psychological criterion. Which of these do you hold, or do you endorse some fourth view?
2. Explain what you take to be the best argument in favor of the view explained in §1.
3. Explain which of Parfit's arguments you take to be the strongest argument against the view explained in §1. (Parfit considers arguments against his own views, so you can answer this even if you end up agreeing with Parfit.)
4. Explain why you are not convinced by the argument in §3.
5. Is Parfit correct that personal identity is not 'what matters,' in the sense that having your Replica survive in the Branch Line case is about as good as ordinary survival? Why or why not?

Papers will be evaluated based on (1) clarity, (2) cogency of argumentation, and (3) originality.