

## Synthesis Peer Review Questions

### Introduction

- Underline the thesis/ main argument of the essay.
- Put a star next to the main arguments of the three articles being discussed.
- Does the thesis clearly state the writer's position about the articles?
- What is the common basis of comparison for the three articles (must be more than the basic topic – weight or obedience)? What is basis of differentiation?
- Does the argument go beyond simply agreeing or disagreeing with the articles? Does the writer have a compelling original argument?
- Is the introduction the right length for the paper?
- Is there a title and does it fit the paper?

### Body Paragraphs

- How many body paragraphs are there?
- Underline each of the topic and concluding sentences.
- Do the topic and concluding sentences relate directly back to the subtopics that were expressed/suggested in the thesis?
- Do the body paragraphs deviate from the plan laid out by the thesis either through the addition of other subtopics or the subtraction of existing subtopics?
- Does the writer use at least one example from the articles to support his/her arguments in each of the body paragraphs?
- Are there any places where the writer does too much summary and not enough analysis? (feel free to mark this on the essay)
- Does the writer keep her/his argument in the forefront of the essay or do the arguments of the articles being discussed take over at any point?

## **Conclusion**

- Is there a conclusion paragraph?
- Does it restate the thesis with a difference in the first sentence?
- Does the last sentence take the topic out a broader level? (i.e. re-address the “what’s the point question?”)
- Is the conclusion the right length?

## **In General**

- Is the paper totally in the right format (APA or MLA)? If not, what is incorrect?
- Is the paper the right length?
- Does the paper make a convincing argument?
- Does the writer define the terms of her/his argument? (what she/he agrees with and/or disagrees with in the article)
- Does the writer address the “what’s the point?” question in both the introduction and the conclusion?
- Are there some parts of the paper that seem unnecessary?
- Are there some things that the paper ought to have addressed?
- Does the writer follow my essay advice?