

Questions. Leave nothing blank. Answer with a question if you are uncertain.

1. What does Taylor indicate is his purpose in chapter four (This is tricky - the answer is laid out over the course of pages 31-32)
2. What does Taylor mean when he writes of the “fundamentally dialogical character” of human life?
3. Taylor asserts that our personal identity is formed and sustained by dialogical processes throughout our lives? What is the basis for this argument?
4. What does Taylor say is meant by “defining oneself”?
5. How does Taylor assert significance is determined? How does this relate to his argument?
6. How does Taylor illustrate the point raised in question five above through the use of the hair and sexual preference analogies? How do these analogies demonstrate why it is not choice itself “that confers worth”?
7. What does Taylor mean when he says that “authenticity cannot be defended in ways that collapse horizons of significance”?
8. Based on this chapter, why is “reason is not powerless” in conversations with those “who are enmired in the more trivialized modes of the culture of authenticity.”
9. Define and explain the significance of the following terms:
 - Monological 33
 - Dialogical character 33 ff.
 - Significant others 33
 - Horizons of significance 37 ff.

Points of possible controversy - think about these question, don't answer them in writing.

Taylor argues that authenticity can only be achieved through interactions (dialogue) with others. Do you agree?
Taylor makes some rather significant judgements about what constitutes significance. Are these judgments valid