

Reading Questions for September 21

These questions cover selections by Stephen Macedo and Susan Wolf from a book called *Meaning in Life and Why It Matters*. The answers do not have to be turned in. You will probably have to read more than once to get the answers.

*Background:*

At this point, we're going to look at a different sort of view on the meaning of life proposed by a philosopher named Susan Wolf. To understand her view, we're reading excerpts from a book about it. The book as a whole has an introduction, then some chapters in which Susan Wolf explains her views on the meaning of life, then some chapters in which people criticize her views, and then some responses by her. We'll read the introduction plus a couple of pages from a chapter in which she explains her view.

*Questions:*

1. On pages xi-xii, Macedo indicates that Wolf distinguishes the meaning of life from two other categories. What are these other categories? Do you think she's right to distinguish it from these categories? Why?
2. On page xii, Macedo very briefly describes Wolf's view. If you skip ahead to pages 8-10, you'll find a place where Wolf herself describes her view a little more fully. It has three crucial elements. What are they?
3. On page xiii-xvi, Macedo describes the four critics. What are their criticisms? Which criticisms do you think are right? Which not? And why?