

Metaphysics: Problem set 6

March 7

due date: Monday, March 19

Type and staple your answer.

NB: Use your own words. No quotation, no paraphrase.

1. Sider and Thomson agree on two claims about the case of the clay statue that will be squashed. (i) The statue is not the same thing as the lump of clay. (ii) At times before the squashing, the statue is part of the lump of clay, and the lump of clay is part of the statue. Given that they agree on this much, is there any sense in which a proponent of the doctrine of temporal parts, like Sider, has a better or more satisfying response to the paradoxes than someone like Thomson who denies that there are temporal parts? Explain.
2. According to Thomson (p. 34), the doctrine of temporal parts is a ‘crazy metaphysic—obviously false’. Is she right? Defend your answer.