**Essay Topics for *The Postmortal* by Drew Magary**

1. Within the context of the book and in the society that evolved following “the cure,” can being an “end specialist” be considered a legitimate line of work?

2. Drew Magary describes an apocalyptic world that results from “the cure.” Is it possible that he might be wrong and that the world following “the cure” would be different? What would this world be like?

3. Should pursuing a cure for aging be outlawed or at least highly discouraged in our society in light of the dire consequences such a cure might cause?

4. ***“The saddest aspect of life right now is that science gathers knowledge faster than society gathers wisdom.” – Isaac Asimov***

Discuss this quote in relation to the novel.

5. In *The Postmortal* immortality is presented as more of a curse than a blessing. After the initial euphoria people realize that life without an end holds just as many complications as a finite life. But what if people could pick their “expiration date” at the time they received the cure? What if they could specify a lifespan of 100-200 years? How do you think an expiration date like this would change the premise of the book or resolve some of the issues raised?

6. E.M. Forester defined a “round character” as “extremely realistic, behaving and speaking in a ‘real life’ manner. The character is complex and increases in complexity throughout the story. A round character is capable of contradiction and change with evidence of emotional and psychological development.” (<http://narrative.georgetown.edu/wiki/index.php/Round_character>)

Is John Farrell a “round character” or a “flat character”?

7. While it is clear that the aging process stops as the result of the cure, it is not immediately apparent whether people remain mentally and motionally at the age they received the cure or whether the process of maturity continues regardless of the lack of change in physical appearance.

Do the main characters in *The Postmortal* mature over time? Support your opinion with evidence from the text.

8. When college students look back on their days in school, they often claim that middle school was the worst time in their lives. Similarly, older people often claim they would never go back to their twenties, but would like to go back to their 30s and sometimes 40s. To what extent would people who receive the cure in their twenties be missing out on the opportunity of seeing who they could have become in their older years?