

1. The two Purist factions shown in the book have the same basic goals in mind (freedom from oppression and maintaining the integrity of their species), but they have very different approaches to achieving those goals. Which do you think is more important—the means or the end? If you lived in the world of Synapse and had reason to believe that the survival of your species was being threatened by highly intelligent robots, would you take a passive, vocal stance like Conrad's group, or an active, physical stance like Anastasia's?
2. In Synapse, Artificials aren't human, but do you think they're people?
3. We find out that there's a biochip in development at Terabyne that will give humans artificial coding to enhance their intelligence, reaction times, etc. Do you think those who choose to install the chip have compromised their humanity and become something other than human? Where do you draw the line between human, cyborg, and robot?
4. Considering what we find out about who Anastasia is, what do you think her motivations are for joining the Purists,? Do you think they're the same as those of other Purists, or do you think she's trying to undermine their organization?
5. Kestrel and her brother come to an agreement at the end of the book. Although he tells her that he can't make any promises, he's willing to continue talking with her about the topics that they disagree on. Have you ever had a relative or friend whose most basic ideas or beliefs about the world conflicted with your own? How did you ensure that your relationship survived?