

## Short Writing Assignment 2

First, read “Can Computers Think” by John Searle. Then I want you to do the following. Write me a one page, double-spaced response paper (about 250 words). You can write more, but not more than 400 words. In your paper, you can assume your audience knows what the Chinese room argument is, but make sure before you write that *you* know what it is. Searle considers two replies to the Chinese room argument on p. 672, often called the ‘systems reply’ and the ‘robot reply.’ You can find more information about these replies (and other replies) here:

<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/chinese-room/#4> . I want you to pick one reply to the Chinese room argument (it doesn’t have to be one Searle describes), and describe it. Your description does not have to be long, but it should be correct and clear and in your own words. Then I want you to evaluate: does the reply succeed? Does it fail? Why or why not? In the end, please tell me your opinion on the following question: Can computers think? You are allowed to say “I don’t know,” but if you do have an opinion I would like to hear it. There is no wrong answer.