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English 10

10 November 2014

KEY:	
claim	counterclaim
evidence	rebuttal
warrant	

### Marvel Matchup: Spider-Man vs The Hulk

Peter Parker and Bruce Banner are strikingly similar; both are world renowned scientists, and both have superhuman powers due to inadvertent exposure to radioactive material. Peter Parker was bitten on the hand by a radioactive spider, empowering Peter with the arachnid's proportional strength and agility, and the ability to cling to any surface. Parker, harnessing these abilities for good, became the superhero Spider-Man. Bruce Banner, on the other hand, was caught in the blast of gamma radiation at a nuclear research facility, transforming him into a living engine of destruction known as the Hulk. What would happen if these two superheroes were pitted against each other? Who would win the conquest? **Undoubtedly, the Hulk would defeat Spider-Man in a one-on-one battle.**

First of all, **because of the Hulk's extensive strength, he will smash Spider-Man.** **During one fit of rage, the Hulk—with only one punch—was able break through heavy duty blast doors capable of withstanding a nuclear strike (Hulk).** **While Spider-Man is impressively durable, he can survive "falling from a height of several stories or being struck by an opponent with super strength" (Spider-Man), it isn't enough to protect him from the Hulk's almost limitless power.** **Spider-Man, because of his speed, agility, and spider sense, will be able to avert the Hulk's offensive attacks, but only for so long. The moment the Hulk has Spider-Man in his hands, the fight is over. With one mighty blow, the Hulk will smash Spider-Man like a common house spider.**

But brute force isn't the only factor that gives the Hulk the advantage over Spider-Man; because the Hulk's body possesses an extremely high degree of resistance to injury, pain, and even disease, there is nothing Spider-Man do to cause significant damage to the Hulk. The Hulk's skin is so durable that he is able to withstand incredible impacts; for example; he has been able to "withstood several times the impact of ground zero nuclear explosions" (Hulk). It is true that Spider-Man is strong enough "to lift and throw objects as heavy as a big rig semi-truck with ease" (Spider-Man). But what's a thrown semi-truck compared to a nuclear explosion? If the Hulk can survive nuclear explosions, then Spider-Man is powerless to harm him. Spider-Man is as dangerous to the Hulk as a common house spider is to a 256 pound man wearing size 13 steel-toed boots.

Spider-Man, however, does have one advantage in the fight: his "spider-sense" that "warns him of potential immediate danger by a tingling sensation in the back of his skull" (Spider-Man). This extra sense gives Spider-Man several hundreds of a second's warning about anything from fired bullets or thrown punches, which is sufficient time for him to avert the danger. But there is a problem with his "spider-sense:" it's overly vague—"he cannot discern the nature of the threat by the sensation" (Spider-Man). This sense only tells Spider-Man that he is in danger; it does not specify the exact nature of the danger. Once the battle is in full force, the advantage of Spider-Man's extra sense is completely negated because Spider-Man already knows he's in danger.

The Hulk is superior to Spider-Man in every way. If a battle were to ensue, Spider-Man stands no chance at victory. Once the Hulk has Spider-Man in his hands, Spider-Man is no more.