

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Per. \_\_\_\_\_ DUE DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

## Dystopian Worlds Synthesis Essay

### Learning Targets:

- **LT 1:** Cite textual evidence to support argument
- **LT 3:** Synthesize multiple sources, noting similarities and differences between texts
- **LT 4:** Introduce arguments/thesis statements, organize ideas clearly with evidence
- **LT 7:** Organize ideas clearly for a specific audience and purpose. Plan, revise, edit, rewrite
- **LT 8:** Follow language conventions: spelling, grammar, punctuation, and MLA Formatting



**Writing Prompt:** The short stories, "Harrison Bergeron" by Kurt Vonnegut and "The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas" by Ursula Le Guin, David Brooks' article "The Child in the Basement" and the film *Gattaca* (1997) present seemingly perfect worlds that hide injustice under the surface. Societies sacrifice the joy of the individual for the benefit of all.

What can we as readers learn from these stories about our own world? In a synthesis essay, describe a recurring theme (lesson, moral) in at least two of these texts. Include evidence to support your ideas. What lessons can we apply to our world today?

### Writing Criteria:

- Well-organized multiple-paragraph essay.
- A clear thesis statement (main argument).
- Textual evidence from two or more sources, with analysis (cited in MLA Format).
- Checked for spelling/grammar/mechanics.
- Typed in MLA Format (Times New Roman, 12 point, Double Spaced) in Google Classroom (classroom.google.com).
- Works Cited page: bibme.org, citationmachine.net
- Editing/Revision websites: paperrater.com, grammarly.com, hemingwayapp.com

### Possible Texts:

- "Harrison Bergeron" (Vonnegut)
- "The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas" (Le Guin)
- "The Child in the Basement" (Brooks)
- Gattaca* (1997)
- In addition, you may also choose to add any of the Freedom texts as well.

### Analyzing/Explaining Evidence:

- In other words, X believes \_\_\_\_\_.
- In making this comment, X shows us that \_\_\_\_\_.
- X's point is that \_\_\_\_\_.

### Synthesizing Texts:

- Both texts explore \_\_\_\_\_.
- The authors [agree/disagree] about...
- [Text/author titles] portray different ideas of a "perfect world."
- For example, \_\_\_\_\_ shows...
- On the other hand, \_\_\_\_\_ envisions...

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## Dystopian Worlds Synthesis Essay Outline

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1. Introduction Paragraph (Introducción Párrafo):
  - a. Attention Grabber/Hook - get reader's attention (llamar la atención del lector): rhetorical question, startling statement, anecdote, list, fact, quote
  
  - b. Define dystopia in your own words (Define la distopía en tus propias palabras):
  
  - c. What will you discuss in this essay? (¿Qué vas a discutir en este ensayo?)
    - i. This essay will explore...
  
  - d. List two or more texts you'll be discussing in this essay: authors/titles (autores/títulos)
    - i.
  
    - ii.
  
    - iii.
  
  - e. Thesis Statement Starters (declaración de tesis) - you may choose one:
    - i. The texts \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_ explore the recurring theme of...
    - ii. \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_ create dystopian worlds to show their audience that...
  
2. Body paragraph 1 - Theme 1 (Tema 1): \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Introduce/summarize Text 1 (Presentar/resumir el texto 1):
  
  - b. Explain the central theme of this text (Explicar el tema central de este texto):
  
  - c. Text 1: Quote/Paraphrase (cotización/paráfrasis) (cite author, page #)
  
  - d. Analysis (Análisis): In other words, \_\_\_\_ believes...

- e. Text 1: Quote/Paraphrase (cotización/paráfrasis) (cite author, page #)
  - f. Analysis (Análisis): The author's point is that...
3. Body paragraph 2 - Theme 2 (Tema 2): \_\_\_\_\_
- a. Introduce/summarize Text 2 (Presentar/resumir el texto 2):
  - b. Explain the central theme of this text (Explicar el tema central de este texto):
  - c. Text 2: Quote/Paraphrase (cotización/paráfrasis) (cite author, page #)
  - d. Analysis (Análisis): In making this comment, \_\_\_\_\_ shows us that...
  - e. Text 2: Quote/Paraphrase (cotización/paráfrasis) (cite author, page #)
  - f. Analysis (Análisis): This points out that...
4. Conclusion: Synthesis Paragraph (Conclusión: párrafo de síntesis)
- a. Do these texts agree/disagree with one another? How? (¿Estos textos están de acuerdo / en desacuerdo entre sí? ¿Cómo?)
    - i. These texts explore the recurring theme of \_\_\_\_\_, by showing...
    - ii. These texts both demonstrate that...
  - b. How do these stories connect to current events in the world? (¿Cómo se conectan estas historias con los eventos actuales en el mundo?)
  - c. What lessons can we apply to our world today? (¿Qué lecciones podemos aplicar a nuestro mundo hoy?)

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Grabber: Introductory Idea

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Thesis Statement: Main Argument



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Main Idea/Theme 1

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Main Idea/Theme 2

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Supporting Detail/Evidence (page)

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Supporting Detail/Evidence (page)

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Analysis

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Analysis

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Supporting Detail/Evidence (page)

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Supporting Detail/Evidence (page)

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Analysis

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Analysis

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Conclusion: Synthesis Paragraph: How are these stories connected? What lessons do they have for our world today?