

# Brave New World Essay

## Final Essay: 30 points

Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World* is an example of a classic dystopia: a nightmarish world often run by an oppressive totalitarian regime. It is also science fiction—offering a version of the future that often reflects the issues of the contemporary period. In this paper you will choose one of the prompts below to build a 300 word essay.

### General Directions:

Write an essay of at least 300 of your own words (the 300 words should be on top of your use of direct quotes as evidence) that has a clear, complex argumentative thesis, which addresses your chosen prompt. Your essay must contain multiple paragraphs with a clear introduction, body paragraphs and conclusion. You will want to include both direct and indirect evidence that you have synthesized to support your thesis. **Your essay must be in MLA format including MLA heading, works cited page, double-spaced in Times New Roman 12 pt. font. with properly integrated quotes.**

**Thesis:** central focal point of an essay that explains to the reader what narrative will be developed throughout the contents of the essay.

### Equation for 3 prong thesis:

Thesis opening [because], + prong 1 +prong 2 +prong 3 = Thesis Statement

**Example:** *Thesis opening:* I believe the theme of Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" is that the order of life is dependent upon disorder **because,**

(*Prong 1*)The adult characters repeatedly attempt to control chaos by overruling the views of younger characters creating more chaos,

(*Prong 2*)the characters go through a vast cycle of emotions to reach equilibrium,

(*Prong 3*)and the characters eventually learn to accept the disorder of their relationships allowing them to better enjoy life together.

### **Prompts:**

**Characters as theme:** In the dystopian world of Aldous Huxley, characters act as more than just 3-dimensional people, Huxley also uses them to build themes within the novel. Analyze how Huxley uses character to achieve his theme. Questions you may want to consider: what is the role of the major characters within the book; how does Huxley construct each character in the book and how do those choices help create the theme? In order to be successful in this prompt you will not only have to analyze characters, but also assert a theme for the novel.

**Dystopias Abound:** The prevalence of dystopian fiction continues to permeate American culture. These projections of the future often say more about us at the present than what may happen one day. Compare and contrast Aldous Huxley in his 1932 novel, *Brave New World*, with either Kurt Vonnegut's, "*Harrison Bergeron*", Kurt Vonnegut's "*2BR02B*", or S.L. Gilbow's, "*Red Card*". Each uses a dystopian view of the future to comment on the present through their use of Dystopian Controls. In order to be successful in this prompt, you must assert both a theme (this may be a universal theme or one that is specific to each text) for *Brave New World* and a selected short story (*Harrison Bergeron*, *2BR02B*, or *Red Card*), as well as the Dystopian controls used in each story to support the said theme. You will also need to compare and contrast as well as analyze how each text uses dystopian elements to comment on the present state of society.

**Comparison of Dystopian Worlds:** In the dystopian world of Aldous Huxley, The society functions as if it has reached a utopian state even though the reader may strongly disagree. This can be said of all dystopian literature. Compare and contrast how Aldous Huxley in his 1932 novel, *Brave New World*, has created a more or less structured dystopian world than other pieces of dystopian fiction. In order to be successful in this prompt, you must assert a shared theme for *Brave New World* and another example of dystopian fiction of your choosing, (this

may be a universal theme or an original theme shared by both texts) as well as the Dystopian controls used in each story to support the said theme. You will need to explain the rules and functions of your chosen dystopian world in comparison to that of Brave New World.