



**Welcome to English 3 Honors!** I'm excited about our coming year together and hope you are as well. Our three summer texts are The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood, 1984 by George Orwell and Brave New World by Aldous Huxley.

In addition to reading these novels thoroughly (don't be afraid to read them more than once, take notes, or use mini-post-it notes to highlight interesting or difficult passages), please bring to class on the first day of school a typed essay on ONE of the topics below. The essay does not need to follow the standard RBR format, but it should be well-organized and include a thesis statement that ends your first paragraph. Please follow the guidelines provided.

### Potential topics:

- 1) Discuss the meaning of power in the three books. Who has it? How do they get and/or keep it?
- 2) Examine the role ceremonies and rituals play in each novel.



- 3) How do the three novels view relationships between the sexes? How is sex viewed—and what purpose does sex serve—in each society? Consider the political implications of sex in each novel.
- 4) Examine different symbols in all three novels, considering what they represent and how these symbols change, if at all.
- 5) Consider the relationships between parents and children in the three novels. How do the different societies view—and use—the parent-child dynamic?
- 6) Examine the concept of the younger generation's view of the world vs. the older generation's (or the perspectives of the 'insiders' vs. that of the 'outsiders'). Think about the ideas of what can and can't be changed about society, each group's memory of how things "used to be," attitudes toward the future, etc.
- 7) Be daring! Create a topic of your choice if you wish; just make sure it covers a common aspect of the three novels.

--Please turn OVER for essay guidelines--



## GUIDELINES:

Your paper must be **at least** 2 ½ pages long, but **no more than** 4 pages long. To qualify as a page, your writing must extend at least ¾ down the page. Margins may be no larger than 1 inch.

Organize your paper logically, introduce and conclude your ideas well, but do **not feel obligated** follow the standard RBR 5-paragraph format. In fact, please do **NOT** include a non-text example in your opening paragraph!



Use at least **2 quotations from each book to support and illustrate your ideas**. Quotations should come from a variety of chapters in each book—otherwise, I'll assume you only read a portion of each novel. Please use proper citation for all quotations.

Do **not** use first or second person (I, we, you, us, etc.). Reflect the ideas put forth by the novels, not your opinions.

**PROOFREAD** for spelling, usage, punctuation and capitalization mistakes. Do not rely on spell-check.

Your paper must be typed, double-spaced, and in a 12-point standard font. Use the following heading, placed in the **upper right-hand corner** of your paper:

Name  
English 3 Honors Summer Essay  
Dorn  
Date

**NOTE:** If you have any questions during the summer, please email me at [cdorn@rbrhs.org](mailto:cdorn@rbrhs.org). I might not check email on a daily basis, but I will check it!

