



THE DYSTOPIAN MOVIE FINAL PROJECT

DYSTOPIA: A futuristic, imagined universe in which cruel societal control and the illusion of a perfect society are maintained through corporate, bureaucratic, technological, moral, or totalitarian control. Dystopias, through an exaggerated worst-case scenario, make a criticism about a current trend, societal norm, or political system. (READ-WRITE-THINK, 2006).

Characteristics of a Dystopian Society (These must be visible throughout your movie)

- Propaganda is used to control the citizens of society.
- Information, independent thought, and freedom are restricted.
- A figurehead or concept is worshipped by the citizens of the society.
- Citizens are perceived to be under constant surveillance.
- Citizens have a fear of the outside world.
- Citizens live in a dehumanized state.
- The natural world is banished and distrusted.
- Citizens conform to uniform expectations. Individuality and dissent are bad.
- The society is an illusion of a perfect utopian world.

Types of Dystopian Controls (Your movie should have one of these types of controls.)

Most dystopian works present a world in which oppressive societal control and the illusion of a perfect society are maintained through one or more of the following types of controls:

- Corporate control: One or more large corporations control society through products, advertising, and/or the media. Examples include Minority Report and Running Man.
- Bureaucratic control: Society is controlled by a mindless bureaucracy through a tangle of red tape, relentless regulations, and incompetent government officials. Examples in film include Brazil.
- Technological control: Society is controlled by technology—through computers, robots, and/or scientific means. Examples include The Matrix, The Terminator, and I, Robot.
- Philosophical/religious control: Society is controlled by philosophical or religious ideology often enforced through a dictatorship or theocratic government.

The Dystopian Protagonist (The Hero- Your movie must have a protagonist!)

- often feels trapped and is struggling to escape. (Katniss Everdeen, The Hunger Games)
- questions the existing social and political systems. (Tris Prior, Divergent)
- believes or feels that something is terribly wrong with the society in which he or she lives. (Winston Smith, 1984)
- helps the audience recognize the negative aspects of the dystopian world through his or her perspective. (Jonas, The Giver)

Your movie must have a plot! Plot lines follow one of two directions: terrible things happen to the characters, but the characters either (a) escape their fate, or (b) the “establishment” wins.

Your movie must have at least three acts or parts—beginning, middle, end.

Act I: Exposition

- establishing the setting of the society
- introduce the characters
- some important event occurs toward the end of Act I that introduces the conflict and begins the rising action.

Act II: Action

- action follows the attempts of the main character to either escape or change the society
- the climax—the point at which the character’s attempts to fulfill his/her desire collides with the society or government attempts to stop him/her from reaching that goal or desire
- usually occurs either at the end of Act II or the beginning of Act III

Act III Resolution

- the theme is derived from the resolution of the plot
- if the attempt to escape is successful, or the dystopian society is changed, your movie has a positive theme.
- if, however, the attempts at escape or change fail, the novel has a negative theme

MOVIE SPECIFICATIONS

Your movie must be 10 minutes to 20 minutes in length. All movie projects must have a minimum of four students in a group with a maximum of five students per group. Each member must participate in the movie project. Members must write the screenplay or direct, act, film, edit, and produce the final movie project that must be submitted on the teacher supplied DVD.

Flash drives, emails, etc. will not be accepted.

Follow the Rules!

- You may **not** use any **weapons** in the movie or in the making of the movie.
- You may **not** use any **drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, marijuana, or any other illegal substance** in the making or depiction of the movie.
- You may **not** have any **car chases, racing, or extreme sports, or stunts** of any kind in the movie.
- You may **not use profanity** in the movie.
- You may **not participate in, display, or show any sexual acts** in the movie.
- You **may not wear explicitly provocative or sexually suggestive** clothing (examples: boys cannot be shirtless or have their underwear displayed; girls cannot wear bikini tops or bottoms or skimpy barely there clothing There should not be any pool parties or pajama parties depicted!)
- You are **not** allowed to **injure** anyone including yourself in the movie; this also applies to **injuring animals**.
- You must adhere to all M-DCPS Code of Student Conduct guidelines.
- **Failure to adhere to any of these guidelines will result in an immediate grade of F for the quarter, and possible disciplinary action.**

Your Dystopian Movie Project is Due May 9 and May 10, 2018!