



## 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/outline, direct, act, film, edit, and produce the final movie project that must be submitted on a flash drive. **Emails, YouTube, 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, Juuls, vapes, 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.
- You must **NOT TRESPASS, GO TO ABANDONED BUILDINGS, OR BREAK ANY LAWS** while making the movie.
- 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 6 (B) and May 7 (A), 2019!**