***Fahrenheit 451*: The Impact of Technology and The Power of Information**

Final Essay

In the novel Fahrenheit 451, Ray Bradbury warns against several dangers. Among them are the dangers of technology, the dangers of conformity, and the dangers of censorship.

Respond to one of those dangers by using one of the three prompts below. In order to receive the highest score possible, integrate into your response specific examples both from the novel and through the real life technology we have examined in our Articles of the Week throughout the unit.

**Prompt 1**: The Dangers of Technology

Isaac Asimov echoed Ray Bradbury’s sentiments when he said, “The saddest aspect of life right now is that science gathers knowledge faster than society gathers wisdom.” In *Fahrenheit 451*, Bradbury warns about the dangers of allowing technology to progress without considering the effects of such progress on society. Do you agree with Bradbury’s idea that the effects of technology will influence our society for the worse? Or, does technology primarily have beneficial effects on our society?

Write an essay in which you **agree** or **disagree** with Bradbury’s message on technology. State clearly in your own words what Bradbury’s message is on technology and if you agree or disagree with that message. This should be your thesis statement! Support your argument with at least three examples from the novel and our readings on technology.

**Prompt 2**: The Dangers of Conformity

Juan Ramon Jimenez said, “If they give your ruled paper, write the other way.” Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Ray Bradbury seems to agree with this statement when he expresses the dangers of conformity in *Fahrenheit 451*. He theorizes that when individuals follow the crowd, they give up their own rights to free thought. Do you agree that conformity is a dangerous path? Or do you think conformity is necessary to keep order in a society?

Write an essay in which you **agree** or **disagree** with Bradbury’s message on conformity. State clearly in your own words what Bradbury’s message is on conformity and if you agree or disagree with that message. This should be your thesis statement! Support your argument with at least three examples from the novel and our readings on conformity.

**Prompt 3**: The Dangers of Censorship

Charles Bradlaugh said, “Without free speech no search for truth is possible; without free speech no discovery of truth is useful.” In *Fahrenheit 451*, Ray Bradbury preaches against censorship for many reasons. He feels that by not allowing people to have access to the information in books, a society will deviate from what is right and wrong. He feels that people can not see what is important if they ignore the reality of life, even the negative aspects of life. Do you agree what we should exclude all forms of censorship from society? Or are there forms of censorship that are necessary?

Write an essay in which you **agree** or **disagree** with Bradbury’s message on censorship. State clearly in your own words what Bradbury’s message is on censorship and if you agree or disagree with that message. This should be your thesis statement! Support your argument with at least three examples from the novel and our readings on censorship.