

August 2008

Lord of the Flies and *Brave New World* essay

Please choose one of the following two topics and write a well-organized four paragraph or more (short intro, at least 2 body paragraphs, and a short conclusion) essay. Please attach your quotations and brainstorming to the front of your essay. You must use **a minimum** of two quotations from each novel. You may choose to write about each novel in its own paragraph or about both novels in each paragraph. I will help you find the quotations if you are having trouble. Ask me for help!

1. At the end of *Brave New World*, Helmholtz and Bernard are sentenced to an island, and Bernard becomes hysterical. The Controller cannot understand his reaction, and he comments:

He's being sent to an island. That's to say, he's being sent to a place where he'll meet the most interesting set of men and women to be found anywhere in the world. All the people who, for one reason or another, have got too self-consciously individual to fit into community-life.... Every one, in a word, who's any one. (227)

How does this quotation explain what is wrong with each of the utopias in the novels? What is the tension between the needs and desires of the individual and his society in each of these works?

Do Huxley and Golding share similar views about conformity and individuality or are their views different?

Remember to write an introduction that allows you to discuss both novels in a coherent way.

Remember also to write a thesis statement that makes an argument.

Your introduction and conclusion may be extremely brief in this essay.

2. At the beginning of *Lord of the Flies*, Ralph is excited to be in paradise, with no grown-ups, much as John is thrilled to finally go to his "Brave New World." By the end of each novel these two characters feel total despair. What are the aspects of their respective utopias that cause them to be stricken with shock and loathing?

What does Ralph realize about people that makes him horrified?

Why does John feel driven to do what he does?

Remember to write an introduction that allows you to discuss both novels in a coherent way.

Remember also to write a thesis statement that makes an argument.

Your introduction and conclusion may be extremely brief in this essay.

Proofread before you hand this in!

Check for:

spelling

run-on sentences

complete paragraphs

three details in each paragraph

thoughtful analysis of each quotation

