

Unit 3: The World You Imagine

Brave New World and Other Texts



Unit Overview: In what kind of world do you want to live? In what direction do you believe humanity is headed? Do you imagine a world of peace, prosperity, and equality? Do you foresee a future defined by prejudice, violence, and war? It is difficult to predict where exactly we are headed as a species, but we *must* make decisions and choices about tomorrow; we *must* make predictions and in the only way we know how: by closely examining from where we came and honestly assessing where we are now.

In 1932 Aldous Huxley, author of *Brave New World*, embarked on a journey that is similar to the one on which *we* are about to embark, and he made radical and dark predictions regarding the future of humankind. Huxley paints a picture of a world devoid of love, human intimacy, culture, freedom, and pain, a community comprised of mindless pleasure, genetically engineered segregation, and conditioned peace.

Over the course of several weeks, we will engage in the process of intellectual reciprocity regarding a multitude of important subjects: education, technology, pain, compassion, empathy, community, identity, race, and diversity. We will not only discuss Huxley's predictions regarding these subjects, but we will also examine the thoughts and perspectives of great writers and thinkers from various walks of life; we will explore and thoughtfully analyze our past as Americans, our present as Americans, and our future as human beings.

It is inevitable that we will disagree about some of these topics and even humanity in general, but let us remind ourselves of the lessons we learned from our Unit 2 discussion: "Doubt can be a bond as powerful and sustaining as certainty," and underneath everything, we are *all* human; we are more than "ideas and convictions" (Shanley 14, 49).

BRAVE NEW WORLD DISCUSSION ASSIGNMENT 50 Points

Assignment Overview: For this assignment, you must read *Brave New World* in its entirety by _____, and explicate what Huxley is intimating about the following topics: **Technology and Entertainment, Education and Reading, Pain and Compassion, Family and Relationships,** and **Identity and Community.** You must determine what Huxley is revealing about each topic, generate a claim (a thesis-style sentence) about each topic, and document and explain textual evidence to support your claim. Over the course of several weeks, you will discuss *every* topic from Huxley's perspective, other writers' perspectives, and your perspectives. You will be expected to participate a certain number of times throughout the unit.

Specific Guidelines:

- * Use the attached sample chart to complete the assignment.
 - * You must complete five charts.
- * You must generate a claim about each topic.
- * You must make reference to and NUMBER 10 textual references per topic.
- * You must include page numbers.
- * Fill the charts!

Important Note: This is an independent project. You **may not work together**, and you **may not use the internet**. The purpose of the assignment is to encourage you to think, to formulate an interpretation without the world telling you what to think. Then, you will come together and share your findings and learn from each other.

Things to consider:

1. You must type your notes and submit them to [turnitin.com](https://www.turnitin.com) by the due date.
2. Plagiarism or copying will result in a zero.
3. Late Policy: Your charts/notes will be accepted up to two-days late at -15 per day. You must participate in the discussions whether you are prepared or not.
4. If you miss most of the discussion **because of extenuating circumstances**, you can perform an oral presentation to replace the grade.

1

READING

What do you notice about the topics?

2

INFER

What is the author's central message regarding the topics?

3

PLAN

What evidence from the text supports your claim?

4

DISCUSS

What do your peers think? Are your claims valid?

Topic:

Claim about Huxley's Perspective:

Textual Reference & Page #	Explanation