

# Plan a Dystopian Story

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Period: \_\_\_\_\_

A **Dystopia** is a vision, of an often futuristic society, which has developed into a negative version of Utopia (perfect society). A Dystopia is often characterized by an authoritarian or totalitarian form of government. It features different kinds of repressive social control systems, a lack or total absence of individual freedoms and expressions and a state of constant warfare or violence.

*Fahrenheit 451 is about a Dystopian society.*

**Directions:** You or you and a partner are to outline/plot a dystopian story of your own creation. As Bradbury did in *F451*, you are going to first examine what people fear in our society today in order to establish the foundation for your story. (You aren't actually going to write the story.) Then, you will decide how to include those elements of fear in your story, create a main character, setting, etc. Follow the guidelines below.

## **1) What Do People In America Fear Today?**

Think of major examples of fear in today's society (not little ones like spiders or clowns.) Some examples include: terrorist threats, violence in schools, road rage, internet addiction, and the H1N1 virus. **What else can you think of?**

**2)** Which of the above fears do you want to include in your dystopian story? You can include as many as you like.

**3)** A dystopian story has a **back story**: a war, natural disaster or other terrifying event is introduced early on in the story to set the stage. **Describe the back story for your dystopia.**

**4)** You will also need a **hero** in your story. This protagonist will at some point recognize that there is something wrong with society and risk his or her life to do whatever he or she can to improve it. **Describe your hero.** Give him or her a name; indicate what he or she does for a profession; What is his or her concern with society?; What will he or she do to save society from itself?

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**5)** Describe the **government** in your dystopia. What kind of government exists?; Who is in charge?

**6)** List **five rules** dictated by the government that it expects citizens to follow:

**7)** Describe the **average citizens** in your dystopia. What do they wear?; Describe their appearance; What do they do for a living?; Do they have children?; How do they behave on a daily basis?; What do they do for fun?; How do they respond to the government?

**8)** What happens to **citizens** who do not obey the **government**?

**9)** Describe the **setting** of your story. What does the place look like where your citizens live? What do the buildings, homes, cars, etc. look like? What year is it?

**10)** Describe the **schools** in your dystopia. What do students learn? What do they do at school? What do they wear? How do they behave?

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**11)** How does **technology** figure into your dystopia? How do people use it? **Try to invent at least one new technology and explain how it works.**

**12)** What **other important characters** exist in your story? Typically, in a dystopian story the hero meets characters like himself or herself and works with them to meet their goals. You may also have some antagonists or characters who work against the hero. Describe these characters. Give them names. Explain why they are important.

**13)** What is the **basic plot** of your story? Write a good paragraph.

**TURN OVER**

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**14)** What is the **major conflict** in your story?

**15)** How is your **story resolved**? Generally, the hero escapes or is responsible for destroying the dystopian society and helping to stabilize or normalize it.