In Lois Lowry’s novel, *The Giver*, the people of Jonas’s community decided to convert their world into a “safer” place to be, which they call Sameness. In order to achieve this safety, they have decided to eliminate anything they believe might cause physical or emotional conflict. Some of these dangerous aspects of the world include weather, color, choices, and deep emotions. Because of the decided changes, Jonas’s world runs incredibly smoothly, but is the cost to achieve such smoothness too high? Or is a safe world worth the sacrifices?

**Essay Prompt:** Should society today convert to Sameness? Decide whether or not Sameness is worth the sacrifices it requires. Write an essay in which you persuade the reader either that Sameness is a positive way to live or that Sameness is a negative way of life.

**Thesis:** You should create three main reasons why you believe what you are arguing. These reasons should be more general than specific. For example, instead of saying that Sameness is good because there is no sadness, say that it is good because there are no negative emotions. Or, instead of saying that Sameness is bad because a person cannot choose his/her job, say Sameness is bad because a person has no choices. Once you have identified three reasons, find one piece of evidence, Concrete Detail, for each reason. There will be three chunks total in this persuasive essay.

*First, remember, DO NOT use the personal pronouns “I”, “we”, “you”, “us”, “our”, and “ours”. Even though this is an essay filled with your opinions, you can still express that opinion without using “I”. For example, rather than state your thesis as “I believe Sameness would ruin the world”, state “Sameness would ruin the world”. Because your name is on the paper, we know they are your thoughts.*

******Also, remember that in *The Giver*, Sameness is a proper noun and should always be capitalized.**

Use the following to format your essay:

**Step-by-Step Recipe**

**I. Introduction:**

a. Begin with an attention-grabbing hook. The hook should be a famous quotation, a startling statistic, a simile or metaphor, or a strong statement related to the main argument. Whatever hook you choose, it should relate to the essay’s argument. Always avoid questions. If necessary, include a bridge that connects the hook to the essay. Not all hooks need a bridge; their function is to help ensure the essay flows.

b. Follow the hook with the TAG (title, author, and genre) + plot summary.

c. Include a brief summary of what Sameness is.

d. Next, write the thesis. Here, the thesis is the position taken either for or against Sameness. Include three main reasons to support the argument (these will be the subpoints).

   **Example:** If the essay is arguing for Sameness, the three reasons to argue for it might be that it relieves people of social pressure, that it allows more freedom from pain, and prevents extreme weather. The thesis might end up something like: *Sameness creates an amazing life because it relieves people of social pressure; it allows more freedom from pain; and prevents extreme weather conditions.*

**II. Body Paragraph One** (About the first thesis subpoint):

a. Begin with a topic sentence that restates the thesis and the first reason for/against Sameness. For example, *Sameness would strengthen society because it relieves people of social pressure.*

b. Next, write a Lead-in introducing the evidence from the book (CD). Make sure the lead-in explains what was happening in the novel at the time of the quotation (Who? What? When? Where?). Always punctuate a Lead-in with a colon.

c. After the Lead-in, include the Concrete Detail (CD), being sure to punctuate it correctly and include the page number in parenthesis.
d. Write two sentences of Commentary (CM). Explain how the CD proves that Sameness subpoint is good/bad as it relates to Jonas’s society; be sure to relate this to the first subpoint. Also, explain how this aspect of Sameness would be positive or negative for society today.

e. State the reason that someone might have against this paragraph’s subpoint. This is the counterargument. (Some may say that freedom of choice allows people to choose which path to take in life and learn from his or her own mistakes.)

f. Include two sentences of rebuttal, explaining why this counterargument is incorrect and the original argument is correct. Be sure to be polite and use rebuttals that truly make sense. (However… or, On the other hand…)

g. Close the paragraph with a closing sentence that restates the subpoint and introduces the next body paragraph.

III. Body Paragraph Two (About second thesis subpoint):

a. Begin with a topic sentence that restates the thesis and the second reason for/against Sameness.


c. After the lead-in, include the Concrete Detail (CD), being sure to punctuate it correctly and include the page number in parenthesis.

d. Write two sentences of Commentary. Explain how the CD proves that Sameness is good/bad as it relates to Jonas’s society; be sure to relate this to the second subpoint. Also, explain how this aspect of Sameness would be positive or negative for society today.

e. State the counterargument. This is reason that someone might have against this paragraph’s subpoint. (Some may say… or It may be true that…)

f. Include two sentences of rebuttal, explaining why this counterargument is incorrect and the original argument is correct. Be sure to be polite and use rebuttals that truly make sense. (However… or, On the other hand…)

g. Close the paragraph with a closing sentence that restates the subpoint and introduces the next body paragraph.

IV. Body Paragraph Three (About third thesis subpoint):

a. Begin with a topic sentence that restates the thesis and the third reason for/against Sameness. For example, Since Sameness prevent extreme weather conditions, it would have a positive impact on society today.


c. After the Lead-in, include the Concrete Detail (CD), being sure to punctuate it correctly and include the page number in parenthesis.

d. Write two sentences of Commentary (CM). Explain how the CD proves that Sameness is good/bad as it relates to Jonas’s society; be sure to relate this to the third subpoint. Also, explain how this aspect of Sameness would be positive or negative for society today.

e. State the counterargument. This is reason that someone might have against this paragraph’s subpoint. (Some may say… or It may be true that…)

f. Include two sentences of rebuttal, explaining why this counterargument is incorrect and the original argument is correct. Be sure to be polite and use rebuttals that truly make sense. (However… or, On the other hand…)

g. End with a closing sentence that explains why the essay’s original argument is correct.

V. Conclusion


b. Add a few more sentences explaining why this way is the only acceptable way.