

The Giver Essay Overview and Steps Checklist-Timeline

Overview: Write an essay explaining what one of the themes of the The Giver is and, for all 8th grade students, how that theme is important in our world today. The theme you choose to write about has to be related to one of these topics or issues in the novel: **conformity/sameness/choices, family relationships, censorship, death/euthanasia, or disobedience to society's rules.** (Download and print the Giver Essay Topics from the Nature Academy website)

Topic: _____ **Parent Signature:** _____

Prove the theme of the novel: this is the first and longest part of the essay (five or more paragraphs)

1. _____ **Choose a topic:** Download from the Nature Academy Language Arts page, then carefully read the "Culminating Essay Topics" handout, talk it over with your parents and then choose at topic.
2. _____ **Quick-write:** In your Writing Log, do a focused free-write on your topic. To do a focused free-write, simply spill out all your ideas about the topic without worrying about grammar. Write continuously for five minutes. Title this page "*Giver* Essay Free-write"
3. _____ **Textual Evidence:** Find passages in the novel that relate to your topic. Jot these passages down in your Writing Log on the page directly following your focused free-write. Title this page (or pages) "Relevant *Giver* Passages" Share passages with your writing group. Your writing group consists of selected students in our class who chose the same topic.
4. _____ **Answer the topic questions:** Answer the topic questions. Next, find evidence from the text to back those answers up. Complete answers in your Writing Log, directly after the passages pages. Title the page(s) "*Giver* Topic Questions."
5. _____ **Second Quick-write:** In your Writing log, complete a second focused free-write on the topic now that you have some evidence from the novel. Include in your free-write what message you think Lowry is conveying about that topic. In other words, what is the theme? Write down a sentence stating a theme at the end of this second focused free-write. Highlight it.
6. _____ **Read the "Thesis of *Giver* essay"** page (download this) and then write your thesis.
7. _____ **Write an outline** (Download this) for the part of your essay that proves what the theme is. This part of the essay explains what message the novel reveals about one of these topics: conformity/ sameness/ choices, family relationships, censorship, euthanasia/death, or disobedience to society's rules. Write the outline on (a) separate sheet(s) of paper; be sure to include your name, date, and topic in the heading.

(IN 7TH GRADE? SKIP TO #13 BELOW)

Show how this topic and the author's message about it are important in our world today:
Second part of the essay (one or more paragraphs).

8. _____ **Brainstorm key words for doing research** about your topic.
9. _____ **Gather information:** Do research on your topic today using the questions on the topic sheet. **Use the pathfinder sheet** (download this) to record where you got your information. At least two sources are required. Ms. S. has some! You will include the sheet when you turn in all the drafts/plans of your essay.
10. _____ **Sort and organize research information:** Identify key ideas about how your topic is important in our world today. Figure out how your information relates to The Giver. Answer the questions listed on topic sheet, in your writing log. Title this page "*Giver/Real World Connections*"
11. _____ **Make an argument** about how your topic matters today. Write that down, in your log, directly after the Real World Connections answers.
12. _____ **Add to your outline:** include your research information in the second part of your outline
13. _____ **Read "Using quotes in an essay"** (Download this.)
14. _____ **IF NEEDED: Outline each body paragraph for your essay.**
15. _____ Write a **rough draft** of the entire essay & get feedback from your writing group.
16. _____ **Read** your draft carefully.
17. _____ **Fill out the Revision Checklist** (Download this!)
18. _____ Use this checklist to **revise your essay**—write a second draft.
19. _____ **Read the "Dirty Dozen" handout.** (Download this.) Check your essay for these errors. **Edit** your draft for punctuation, spelling, and grammar.
20. _____ **Check your essay** over once more for common errors and then print out and turn in your final draft, w/all drafts/outline attached. (Do not tear pages out from your writing log- only outlines and drafts.)