**Character vs. Society Argument Option 1**

**Should \_\_\_ challenge society’s values and beliefs, and if so, how and why?**

Choose a character from your book to focus on, and decide what would be the best course of action for him/her. Should this character challenge their society’s values and beliefs? Why? If she/he should challenge his/her society, what should they do? Use violence? Lead some kind of protest or demonstration? Educate people? Write and publish something?

If you want to argue this character should not challenge his/her society’s values and beliefs, why not?

**You introduction must…**

* ***briefly*** summarize the text. What are this society’s values and beliefs? How do they affect people? (You may want to refer to your first journal entry!) Who is this character?
* Have a thesis/focus statement that clearly argues what a character should do.

**The body of your essay must…**

* + have paragraphs that focus on one reason/supporting argument for your thesis. This focus should be stated in the topic sentence.
  + Use strong, specific evidence to support your arguments. This evidence can be quotes from a text, anecdotes from a text, an expert opinions (you and I are not experts, so our opinions don’t count!), or facts and statistics (numbers). You are free to use evidence from texts other than your book if it is relevant.
  + Explain your reasoning--how your evidence supports your point.
  + include a counter argument. Explain an opposing argument and why that argument is invalid or wrong. (In other words, why might someone disagree with you, and why they’re wrong and you’re right!)

**You conclusion must…**

* + Briefly restate your thesis/focus statement and summarize your body paragraphs.
  + Have a “So What?” Why should your audience care about this issue in their everyday lives? What should they do?

**Other hints…**

* You may want to revisit your other journal entries. If something you’ve already written is relevant, feel free to reuse it in the essay!
* Remember that you are trying to persuade your audience, so use strong, descriptive language to win people over to your side. Do not use phrases like “I think/I feel/I believe/In my opinion”!
* Try giving your essay to someone else to who hasn’t read the same texts as you. After they read your argument, ask if you have convinced them, and if not, what could you do to be more convincing?
* If you want to persuade someone you have to at least appear to be an authority. Don’t undermine your authority by having lots of proofreading errors. Try reading your writing out loud to find some of your errors.

**Character vs. Society Argument Option 2**

**Do people only challenge a society’s values and beliefs to serve their**

**own interests?**

Take a stand on this question and argue that people only challenge society’s values and beliefs for their own selfish reasons or that some other force motivates people to take a stand. (Hint: If are you going to argue that people are not always motivated by their own self-interest, what motivates them instead?

**You introduction must…**

* ***briefly*** summarize the text(s) or times that someone challenged society’s values and beliefs. Make sure you make it clear which society/societies you’ll be focused on, what they valued and believed and why those values and beliefs were a problem.
* have a thesis/focus statement that clearly argues a point.

**The body of your essay must…**

* + have paragraphs that focus on one reason/supporting argument for your thesis. This focus should be stated in the topic sentence.
  + use strong, specific evidence to support your arguments. This evidence can be quotes from a text, anecdotes from a text, an expert opinions (you and I are not experts, so our opinions don’t count!), or facts and statistics (numbers). You are free to use evidence from texts other than your book if it is relevant.
  + explain your reasoning--how your evidence supports your point.
  + include a counter argument. Explain an opposing argument and why that argument is invalid or wrong. (In other words, why might someone disagree with you, and why they’re wrong and you’re right!)

**You conclusion must…**

* + Briefly restate your thesis/focus statement and summarize your body paragraphs.
  + Have a “So What?” Why should your audience care about this issue in their everyday lives? What should they do?

**Other hints…**

* You may want to revisit your other journal entries. If something you’ve already written is relevant, feel free to reuse it in the essay!
* Remember that you are trying to persuade your audience, so use strong, descriptive language to win people over to your side. Do not use phrases like “I think/I feel/I believe/In my opinion”!
* Try giving your essay to someone else to who hasn’t read the same texts as you. After they read your argument, ask if you have convinced them, and if not, what could you do to be more convincing?
* If you want to persuade someone you have to at least appear to be an authority. Don’t undermine your authority by having lots of proofreading errors. Try reading your writing out loud to find some of your errors.