

## Twelfth Grade – Self and Society

You must get the editions listed below!

**Eric Schlosser. *Fast Food Nation*** ISBN 0060838582 (Harper Perennial)

**Aldous Huxley. *Brave New World*** ISBN 0060776099 (Harper Perennial)

***You are required to complete both sections.***

### Essay Topic:

In light of the fact that Huxley wrote *Brave New World* in 1931, some read his work as pure fiction. However, we live in an era in which much of what he postulated has become our existence. Consider the relevance of Huxley's warning to the early twenty-first century: do we stand on the verge of our own "Fordian nightmare?" Write a five-paragraph essay in which you link happenings in the modern world with specific events and ideas in the novel. Your essay should address two or three of the following: genetic engineering, American cultural hegemony, the role of the media, consumerism, medical advances, pop-culture, or technology.

Begin with an engaging opening paragraph that leads to a clear thesis statement. Support your assertions with specific examples and incorporate at least two partial quotations from the text which you must cite using correct MLA formatting. Your essay is due the first day of class and should be typewritten in Times New Roman 12, double-spaced, with standard margins. If you decide to make use of secondary material, be careful to document your research precisely according to MLA standards. Be sure to keep a copy of your essay on a portable flash drive.

### Journal Writing Assignment:

For *Fast Food Nation*, you are only responsible for Part I "The American Way" over the summer. We will be reading the rest of the book (Part II "Meat and Potatoes") in the first two weeks of school. Read Part I "The American Way." As you read, keep a list of quotes, facts, ideas, insights, anecdotes that shocked you, engaged you, or just generally got you thinking. Be sure to include page numbers. For each entry, write a brief reaction/reflection/commentary. Aim for a total of ten to twelve entries. Use a composition book (marbled cover, sewn binding, preferably college rule), and bring it with you on the first day of class.

### Supplementary Reading List

English teachers will have details of the extra credit available for these two titles at the start of school.

Orwell. *1984*

Childress. *Crazy in Alabama*

### Also Recommended:

Kingsolver. *The Poisonwood Bible*

Fowles. *The Collector*

Kaysen. *Girl Interrupted*

### Recommended Films:

*M\*A\*S\*H*

*Being There*

*A Beautiful Mind*

*North by Northwest*

*Psycho*

