

Fahrenheit 451 Essay Outline

Paragraph One

I. Universal truth -

II. Into concepts of the society -

III. Intro title, author, etc. -

IV. **Thesis statement:** Successfully implementing _____,
_____, and _____ (provide three rhetorical devices Bradbury
uses i.e imagery) into his writing, Bradbury, bring a realistic, terrible, future "mindless America" to
his readers.

Paragraph Two - Topic Sentence: _____

- I.
- II.
- III.

Paragraph Three - Topic Sentence: _____

- I.
- II.
- III.

Paragraph Three - Topic Sentence: _____

- I.
- II.
- III.

Concluding Paragraph

I. Revisit thesis -

II. Broaden concept -

III. Cautionary or reflective statement -

Fahrenheit 451 – Essay topics

1. Beatty's dying words are quoted from Shakespeare's Julius Caesar: "There is no terror, Cassius, in your threats, for I am arm'd so strong in honesty that they pass me in an idle wind, which I respect not!" (119). Beatty mocks Montag as a "second-hand litterateur." Explain why Bradbury would portray the fire Captain as a literary expert. Why has Bradbury chosen these final words for Beatty?
2. Consider the symbolism of fire in the novel. Explore passages where fire significantly factors into the story. How does Montag's understanding of fire (and/or burning) change throughout the novel? At the end of the novel Granger looks at the fire and says, "phoenix." (163) How does fire capture both destruction and renewal?
3. Mildred's leisure makes her suicidal. Faber argues for the leisure of digesting information. Beatty mocks how people "superorganize super-super sports." (57). What is wrong with the concept of leisure in Montag's world? Does Bradbury succeed in establishing a new idea of leisure by the end of the novel? Why or why not?
4. Does Montag kill Beatty out of self-defense or to preserve something lost? Has Montag avenged the deaths of Mrs. Hudson and Clarisse? Can Montag justify murder in defense of books? Finally, do the extreme circumstances of Montag's world justify lawless behavior to preserve the freedom to read?
5. As noted in the reader's guide, Bradbury has suggested the story turns on the input from a teenager, Clarisse. Explore Clarisse's character in detail, explaining her motivations and the values she represents. Why must Clarisse be killed or silenced?
6. Near the novel's end, Granger tells Montag "the most important single thing we had to pound into ourselves is that we were not important." (153) What does he mean? How does Granger's statement reflect a major theme of the novel?
7. Having had the foresight to visualize a future where men are free, committing to that future, and building a community around that goal, the group of readers at the end of the story shows the leadership needed to help bring citizenry, previously crippled by ignorance, into a new world of learning and knowledge.
8. Successfully implementing _____, _____, and _____ (provide three rhetorical devices Bradbury used i.e imagery) into his writing, Bradbury, bring a realistic, terrible, future "mindless America" to his readers.
9. Discuss how Montag displays qualities of leadership
10. Refute that Montag does not exhibit leadership qualities

Do NOT use "you" nor "your"

Do NOT use "I believe...", "In my opinion..." "I think..." "I feel that..."

MLA Format