Existentialism

WebQuest Description: This webquest will challenge students to apply the concepts of existentialism to other forms of media and present day events.
Grade Level: 9-12
Curriculum: English / Language Arts
Keywords: Existentialism, Sartre, No Exit, Truman Show, Nietzsche
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Introduction

Learning Targets: I can identify elements of Existentialism. I can evaluate Existential qualities and characteristics. I can explain and apply Existentialism to other pieces of literature and other forms of media.

Tasks

You are going to examine the basic aspects of Existentialism and apply them to modern film and the Truman Show.

Process

A Little Existential Thought...DIRECTIONS: Use the handout located at the bottom of this page to respond to the questions. Each link is intend to help you develop your opinion and answer.
Q1: What is Existentialism? (Click here for a brief review)
Q2: We know what Existentialism is, how about what is IS NOT?
THEMES OF EXISTENTIALISM and much more...
Q3: How does Truman and the play, NO Exit, demonstrate existence preceeds essence? Existence preceeds essence :&nbsp;
The proposition that existence preceeds essence (French: l'existence précède l'essence) is a central claim of existentialism, which reverses the traditional philosophical view that the essence or nature of a thing is more fundamental and immutable than its existence. To existentialists, the human being—through his consciousness—creates his own values and determines a meaning for his life because, in the beginning, the human being does not possess any inherent identity or value. By posing the acts that constitute him, he makes his existence more significant.
Q4: How does Truman and the play, NO Exit, demonstrate each of the following themes? Moral Individuality - to determine on your own if something is "right" or "wrong"SubjectivityDread and AnxietyChoice and Commitment - make a choice and live with it
Q5: Choose a film provided here and explain how that movie could be considered existential in your opinion. Be sure to choose one of the films that you have actually seen.
Q6: Examine the following Existential Philosophers through the links provided. Read their brief biographies, then share your opinion of their "take" or point of view of Existentialism. In other words, what do YOU think of each of these philosophers and their outlooks on Existentialism?

Nietzsche

Sartre

Kierkegaard

Nietzsche #2 Link

Sartre

Kierkegaard

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