Brave New World - Writing Out in Protest!

WebQuest Description: Examine the issues and societal trends Huxley is speaking out against in his novel, Brave New World.

Grade Level: 9-12
Curriculum: English / Language Arts
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Introduction

Welcome to your Brave New World WebQuest. This is not only a research activity but it is also a reading comprehension activity. That means that there will be very little traditional lecture-style teaching -- you will have to carefully read and correctly interpret each of the instructions below. Remember that we are studying this novel as an example of Social Protest Literature. We seek to investigate the questions:

- In what ways has literature and art been used to protest social injustice?
- How can rhetorical or stylistic techniques be used to make protest literature effective?
- What issues in contemporary society might we address through protest literature?

Essentially, you will be working with a small group to better understand Brave New World as an example of social protest literature. Good luck and happy questing!

Tasks

You and a team of 3 other students will create a webpage that explores the life and times of Aldous Huxley leading up to the publication of his novel Brave New World in 1932. Each member of your group must choose a role that interests you and everyone should contribute to the creation of the final product (outlined below). Your goal is to gather data that you can then use to generate some theories about possible influences on Huxley while he was writing Brave New World. Finally, you will create your own social protest text related to the issue you researched.

Tentative Schedule

Day One: Planning and research
Day Two: Research and organizing ideas; build your group's collaborative homepage
Day Three: Building your Individual Page (focused on the role you chose and incorporating your research)

Step 1: Read all the instructions carefully. Then, within your group, decide who will play the role of the scientist, the historian, the media specialist, and the psychologist. Each member must choose a different role.

Role 1: The Scientist/Technologist
You are responsible for gathering, organizing, and presenting information focusing on the use of technology. In particular, you should examine breakthroughs in manufacturing technology (the assembly line).

Role 2: The Historian
You are interested in studying the possible influences of historical events. In particular, you should examine any major military incursions, natural disasters, and other significant world events.

Role 3: The Media Specialist
You are interested in the use of propaganda and media, especially advertising.

Role 4: The Psychologist
You are interested in developments and theories that were significant during the early 1900’s, including human experiments and prominent psychologists of the era.

Step 2: Each member of the group will have different directions for step 2. You are only responsible for the task described for YOUR role. You are expected to take thorough notes in response to the questions given. Your notes will make up the bulk of the information you include in the website you will create.

Remember: You will want to take electronic notes so that you can cut and paste them into your webpage with ease. Type out everything you find (or cut and paste it into a word document). Don't forget to type out the web address for any interesting sites that you come across. That way you can include the URL as a link on your own webpage. When you are cutting and pasting your notes be sure to color all direct quotes and copied data in red so that it is easy to avoid plagiarism. You should also copy the URL and other citation/bibliographical information to your notes as you are required to document your sources.

If you are the Scientist/Technologist: Consider why Henry Ford plays such a prominent role in Brave New World. Henry Ford's business philosophy shaped America, according to Lee Iacocca's firsthand account of Ford's business practices and beliefs. Lee Iacocca was president of Ford, later chairman of Chrysler, and recently founded EV Global Motors.

Read the article “Driving Force: Henry Ford” http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,989769,00.html

Write down 20 key pieces of information from the article in your notes.

If you are the Historian: Read the essay and lists the 5 most crucial
points in support of that thesis. If you are the Historian: Collect background information on Aldous Huxley and consider how his life is reflected in his work. According to the author of this biography, http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Aldous_Huxley how are Huxley’s own experiences recreated in Brave New World? Use the website to answer the following questions: How was England in Huxley’s time like Brave New World? Which characters are most like Huxley himself? How? What was an influential event in Huxley’s life that occurred when he was 16? What major event in Brave New World? What illness did Huxley experience at 16? How did it affect his life? What was Huxley’s impression of America? Huxley had a rather paradoxical view of drug use, according to this article, &nbsp; What were his views, and how are his views evident in the novel? Then read the lecture specifically about Totalitarianism: &nbsp; http://www.historyguide.org/europe/lecture10.html &nbsp; Record 30 significant facts in your notes. If you are the Media Specialist: Consider persuasion and propaganda In our society, we are not subjected to sleep teaching, Neo-Pavlovian conditioning, or many of the other persuasive techniques used in Brave New World. On the other hand, advertisers, politicians, and others attempt to persuade us every day and they are much more effective at doing so than you may think. Read the article http://workingpsychology.com/intro.html &nbsp; For each topic on the list to the left of the page (from “Introduction to Social Influence” to “Mindlessness”) take notes about interesting or key ideas and concepts. Minimum requirement is 40 entries total in your notes. If you are the Psychologist: Consider the psychology behind Brave New World. &nbsp; The work of several famous psychologists influenced the writing of this novel. As you read, take notes about each of these famous psychologists and their work. Minimum requirement is 10 entries in your notes per site (40 total). Site 1: Read about Behaviorism at http://www.simplypsychology.org/behaviorism.html &nbsp; Site 2: Read about BF Skinner &nbsp; http://www.simplypsychology.org/pavlov.html &nbsp; Site 3: Read about Classical Conditioning and &nbsp; Little Albert &nbsp; http://www.simplypsychology.org/classical-conditioning.html Site 3: Read about BF Skinner &nbsp; http://www.simplypsychology.org/operant-conditioning.html &nbsp; &
Step 2: Notes are thorough, organized, and accurate. They show understanding of the topic. Step 3: Quotes from Huxley are clearly related to your topic. You&nbsp;include a well-stated explanation of how the quote selected relates to the novel or to your research. Step 4: Graphic organizer / outline clearly and insightfully connects your research to the novel. Website: Your site is neatly related to your topic. You include a well-stated explanation of how the quote selected relates to the novel or to your research.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category and Score</th>
<th>Beginning 1</th>
<th>Developing 2</th>
<th>Very Good 3</th>
<th>Exemplary 4</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Webpage</td>
<td>The webpage is cluttered looking or confusing. It is often difficult to locate the important elements.</td>
<td>The webpage has a usable layout, but may appear too busy or too boring. It is fairly easy to locate most of the important elements.</td>
<td>The webpage has an attractive and usable layout. It is easy to locate most of the important elements.</td>
<td>The webpage has an exceptionally attractive and usable layout. It is easy to locate all the important elements.</td>
<td>%30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sources</td>
<td>Few, if any, sources are accurately documented. Consider including additional hyperlinks to enable your reader to easily confirm and/or find supplementary information.</td>
<td>Some sources are accurately documented. Consider including additional hyperlinks to enable your reader to easily confirm and/or find supplementary information.</td>
<td>All or almost all sources are accurately documented. A few additional hyperlinks are included enabling the reader to confirm and/or find supplementary information.</td>
<td>All sources are accurately documented. Additional hyperlinks are included enabling the reader to confirm and/or find supplementary information.</td>
<td>%30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pages (complete an evaluation for each individual page in the site)</td>
<td>Vague information or off-topic information included. No commentary (all cut and paste). Writing is disorganized and hard to follow. Several requirements are not addressed.</td>
<td>Information about the topic is clear, but little original writing or thoughtful commentary is included. Writing has frequent errors. One or more requirements are not addressed.</td>
<td>Page includes detailed information about the chosen topic. Some commentary offered. The writing has a few, scattered errors. All requirements are addressed.</td>
<td>Page offers insightful reaction/commentary about information and quotes. The writing is visually appealing and easy to read. The page addresses all of the requirements given (an interesting, relevant, and appropriate title, at least 3 quotes from the novel, explanation of how the topic your researched connects to the novel, at least 2 visuals)</td>
<td>%40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How relevant is this novel today? Are the concerns Huxely expressed in the novel still concerns today? Or should they be? What can we, as individuals, do to avoid a superficial existence? What makes life meaningful? What can be valuable about challenge, strife, suffering, and pain? What are we losing when we embrace a hypersexualized society? What other questions does this novel raise for you?

Credits and References
http://mskurtz.com/wq/bnw.html links to good info about influences on the novel
http://www.foothilltech.org/rgeib/english/bnw/culminating_project/ setup for a task in which students are members of Mustafa Mond’s propaganda team
http://somaweb.org/ An extensive collection of links: writing by Huxley, writing about Huxley, links related to Brave New World, and more.
http://ca.geocities.com/englishhomework@rogers.com/eng2d0/bnw.htm good task for students, including various roles for groups to play

Standards

Credits

Other