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.

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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:

1. In what ways has literature and art been used to protest social injustice?
2. How can rhetorical or stylistic techniques be used to make protest literature effective?
3. 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)

Process

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. 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 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.

Step 3: Each member of the group will have different directions for step 3. You are 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.

Step 4: Each member of the group will have different directions for step 4. You are 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.

Step 5: Each member of the group will have different directions for step 5. You are 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.
points in support of that thesis. &nbsp;If you are the Historian:&nbsp; 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&amp;nbsp;how are Huxley's own experiences recreated in Brave New World?&nbsp;&nbsp;nbsp; 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?&nbsp; How? What was an influential event in Huxley's life that occurred when he was 14?&nbsp; How might this event be reflected in Brave New World? What illness did Huxley experience at 16?&nbsp; 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;&nbsp;nbsp; What were his views, and how are his views evident in the novel?&nbsp;&nbsp;nbsp;Then read the lecture specifically about Totalitarianism: http://www.historyguide.org/europe/lecture10.html&amp;nbsp; Record 30 significant facts in your notes. If you are the Media Specialist:&nbsp; 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.&nbsp; 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://www.workingpsychology.com/intro.html&amp;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:&nbsp; Consider the psychology behind Brave New World. &nbsp;&nbsp;nbsp;http://www.simplypsychology.org/operant-conditioning.html&amp;nbsp;&nbsp;nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&n
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. Step 4: Graphic organizer / outline clearly and insightfully connects your research to the novel. Website: Your site is neatly organized, appealing design, depth of information, clarity of ideas. Writing: Your paragraph shows insight, research, and accurate interpretation of the novel.
### Conclusion

How relevant is this novel today? Are the concerns Huxley 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?

### Teacher Page

Credits and References
- [http://mskurtz.com/wq/bnw.html](http://mskurtz.com/wq/bnw.html) links to good info about influences on the novel
- [http://www.foothilltech.org/rgeib/english/bnw/culminating_project/](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://ca.geocities.com/englishhomework@rogers.com/eng2d0/bnw.htm](http://ca.geocities.com/englishhomework@rogers.com/eng2d0/bnw.htm) good task for students, including various roles for groups to play

**Standards**

**Credits**

**Other**