

## Prepare to Write Your Essay

### Introduction

How will you grab your reader's attention? Can you imagine living in a world without pain, fear, or suffering?

Claim: In *The Giver*, Lowry conveys the theme that the freedom to make choices, even when they lead to painful consequences, is more important than perfection.

How will you address alternate or opposing claims (either in the introduction or body of the essay)? Although this community may sound like an ideal utopia, the main character, Jonas, learns through his experiences throughout the book that this perfection comes at heavy cost.

### Body Paragraph #1

Reason #1: Memories that Jonas experiences shift his perspective and lead him to believe perfection is not worth sacrificing choice.

Relevant Evidence #1: In a conversation with The Giver, he says, "If everything's the same, then there aren't any choices! I want to wake up in the morning and *decide* things! A blue tunic, or a red one?" (p. 97).

Explanation: How does this support the reason and claim? Jonas' reflections demonstrate that he would rather have the opportunity to make a choice for himself rather than existing in a world where choices were eliminated.

Relevant Evidence #2: Although he tells The Giver that he understands choices can be risky and dangerous because people may make the wrong choices, his feelings of anger and frustration continue to grow as he becomes more aware of his lack of choices (p. 99).

Explanation: How does this support the reason and claim? This shows that Jonas understands that choice can lead to negative consequences, but he still is not satisfied with a life where all choices are made for him.

### Body Paragraph #2

Reason #2: Jonas actions demonstrate the theme that we should value choice over perfection.

Relevant Evidence #1: Jonas makes a plan with The Giver to escape from the community and fake his death so that the memories can be released back to the people (p. 155).

Explanation: How does this support the reason and claim? Although Jonas is terrified of this plan and fears that he could be killed, he is determined and committed to taking action because he believes that life without choice is meaningless.

Relevant Evidence #2: Jonas and Gabriel experience fear, physical injuries, and starvation during their journey. However, Jonas reflects on why he has sacrificed everything. The text says, "If he had stayed, he would have starved in other ways. He would have lived a life hungry for feelings, for color, for love. (p. 174).

Explanation: How does this support the reason and claim? These actions demonstrate that Jonas values choice more than perfection so much that he is willing to experience pain and risk death.

### Conclusion

Restate your claim: As Jonas learns more about his community, his reflections and actions demonstrate the theme that the freedom of choice is more important than perfection.

Concluding thoughts that follow from and support your argument: Although we may dream about that perfect world that John Lennon sings about in "Imagine," *The Giver* reminds us that perfection is not worth sacrificing our humanity.