

## FEEDBACK: Things to consider when writing

**Prompt:** According to Science Fiction what kind of technological future do we have to look forward to?

- Determine what the prompt is asking. So one way to read the prompt could be... According to Ray Bradbury's "The Veldt", what kind of technological future do we have to look forward to?
  - Can go dark: emotional detachment of children/family, killing of parents
  - Can go lighter: machines for almost everything
- If you are going to talk about technology include the following:
  - The human: what is Bradbury saying about the human element when it comes to technology? (What is it about the human that can make tech. a positive or negative?)
  - The tech. itself: what is its purpose? What ways can/might it be used? Intention? Does the evolution/advancement of technology automatically spell disaster for humans?—Why? (according to "The Veldt")
- Consider what you know NOW about the science fiction genre...how it can focus on the possibilities of what can go wrong. Besides science, what do the writers rely on to "predict" the future?

### Overall:

- Remember that if you use the title and author at the start of your writing, you can refer to the writing by just the title or the author's last name.
- Refer specifically to the title (use correct MLA style) and author; DON'T misspell titles or names
- Can put "summary" material in the introduction
- Be sure to write to the prompt. What are you being asked to do in your response?
- Stay on topic→all information in the response MUST support the thesis (Pre-write)
- Create a thesis statement that can guide your ideas. If this is not clear or missing, your reader can have a much more difficult time following along. Need a thesis to write!!!
- Use paragraphs and paragraph formatting (topic sentence, evidence, etc.)...transitions! Each paragraph=one idea. Be wary of long paragraphs...many ideas may be lurking in one when two or three paragraphs may be needed.
- Use academic writing. Use of overly formal language can undermine your argument in a response that calls for academic writing. (Know the text type you are writing).
- Use the genre name (if a short story, use short story, NOT book)
- Avoid use of I, you, we, they, etc. Your name is on the essay therefore the ideas are automatically yours. If you use a pronoun, be specific: the readers, the author, peers, etc.
- Use pronouns sparingly and be sure the pronoun usage is correct (are you referring to what you think you are?)
- Avoid summary: Decide how examples support your argument/perspective/direction of paper. How much does the reader of your essay really need to know and how much is actually supporting your idea?

- Don't generalize to the point where it can be difficult to support your idea. You can't predict with absolute certainty what will happen and using hyperbolic (exaggerated) language (excessively) can undermine your credibility
- Avoid absolutes (all, never, every, only, etc.) when other words can be used (may, sometimes, could, it appears/seems, in the author's world)
- Watch the connotation of language. Some words are "buzz" words that have become associated with a positive or negative feel.