What is a dystopian world?

Why is this backdrop appealing to authors and film makers?

Why is the backdrop appealing to readers and movie-goers?

What are some other examples of well-known dystopian literature and film?

The Time Machine H.G. Wells

Animal Farm by George Orwell

Nineteen Eighty-Four

Invasion of the Body Snatchers

Brave New World Aldous Huxley

Blade Runner

Divergent

The Lottery

Logan’s Run

Soylent Green

Planet of the Apes

Harrison Bergeron

Mad Max films

Kafka stories

Why the name “Hunger Games”?

What message(s) is the government sending to the people by enforcing participation in the games?

What effect(s) does being able to run the Games have on the government and those closely allied with the government?

What effects does required participation in the Hunger Games have on the people? What emotions do the Games evoke?

Is there anything similar to the Hunger Games in our world?

So the government is sending messages to both the people and to itself by having the power to enforce participation, and the People are sending messages to both the government and themselves by participating in the Games.

What is Katniss’s greatest struggle? To keep her humanity.

“To prepare a face to meet the faces that you meet” Cannot be genuine

Rousseau vs lots of others including Lord of the Flies

What is our default nature? Basically good? Basically savage?

Reality Television and Quantum Mechanics question:

How does the fact that the tributes are always on camera affect their behavior from the time they are chosen? Does it make it easier or harder for them to accept their fate? How are the “career tributes” different from the others?

[Discussion Guide Link](http://www.btol.com/pdfs/hg-TeachingDiscussionGuide.pdf)

# “There will be time, there will be time to prepare a face to meet the faces that you meet” The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock

“It’s all a big show. It’s all how you’re perceived”?

Before the Games start, Peeta tells Katniss, “. . . I want to die as myself . . . I don’t want them to change me in there. Turn me into some kind of monster that I’m not.” What does this tell you about Peeta? What does he fear more than death?

What is the role of the sponsors? What does it say about what the society and/or government values? Popularity equals increased aid.

What kind of people would devise this spectacle for the entertainment of their populace? Can you see parallels between these Games and the society that condones them, and other related events and cultures in the history of the world?

#### Suggested Essay Topics

1. Is Haymitch a good mentor to Katniss and Peeta? Explain.

2. In what ways does Katniss’s hunting experience prepare her for the Games, and in what ways does it fail to prepare her?

3. How does Katniss’s role in her family affect her behavior in the Games?

4. What is Katniss’s greatest strength in the Games, and what is her greatest weakness?

5. Science fiction often uses a futuristic setting to comment on the present day. What does *The Hunger Games* suggest about the present-day United States?

1. The presentation of the tributes seems to be greatly focused on visual presentation and looks — what does this reveal about the belief systems of the Capitol?
2. Compare and contrast life in the Capitol to life in District 12.