

## HOW TO: Write an Essay

**Write the question and your name**

**Introduction:  
(10% of word count)**

1. The topic of the essay
2. Three supporting reasons
3. Definitions

**Paragraph 1:**

**T.** Topic - The topic of this paragraph - First reason

**E.** Explantation - More about this reason

**E.** Evidence - Proof with a quote or scene

**L.** Link - Refer back to essay topic

**Paragraph 2:**

**T. E. E. L.**

For second reason

**Paragraph 3:**

**T. E. E. L.**

For third reason

**Conclusion:**

**(10% of word count)**

1. Repeat the essay topic
2. Repeat the three reasons
3. Closing statement

Is the book series *The Hunger Games* set in a dystopia?  
by Miss Train

The setting of the book *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins is a dystopia. This particular dystopia relies on segregation. It also has a disgustingly unfair distribution of labour and wealth. Lastly, the setting has an unbalanced moral understanding of entertainment. A dystopia is an imagined place that is nightmarish and filled with many of humanity's worst elements, and the setting in the novel is Panem.

The segregation in *The Hunger Games* is clear from the beginning of the book. The Capitol and its twelve Districts have distinct borders to keep its residents separated. Other than an elite train system, that seems exclusively for the use of the Capitol's residents, there is no means of moving from one district to the other for the general public. Further, Katniss mentions the dysfunctional electric fencing as another means of keeping residents within their borders (p. 12). Though the fence doesn't work it is a clear symbol of caging in undesirable movement. This prison-like system is one clear reason why Panem is a dystopia.

The labour and wealth distribution in Panem is a dystopian symptom. The twelve Districts are split into separate industries. Katniss' mines the coal while others produce lumber or food. Despite this tireless work there are rations for the food and other necessities. Katniss states, "Gale often gave up his rations for his brothers." (p. 24). Now, while this might be understandable in hard times, when Katniss visits the Capitol we see why this becomes a dystopia. "The way they stuffed themselves until being sick was ridiculous." (p. 59). Katniss witnessed firsthand the spoils of hard work being abused by those who didn't earn it. This is another major influence on Panem's dystopian setting.

Finally, the immoral form of entertainment in *The Hunger Games* is a strong reason for labelling it dystopian. This immoral entertainment is the obvious Games. The title of Tribute is in fact a sacrifice, as few ever volunteer and are more often forced. Moreover, the Tributes are taken from the most vulnerable, the young. "Tributes are chosen from ages eleven to seventeen." (p. 21). After a farce of displays the Hunger Games actually begins, we witness multiple violent murders that fuel the enjoyment of the Capitol and the horror of the Districts. Such a criminal abuse is vital to Panem's dystopia.

From the Capitol throughout the twelve Districts of Panem, *The Hunger Games* has elements of a dystopia. Three of these elements are: the segregation of the residents into districts; the unfair level of work in the Districts and wealth in the Capitol; and the inhumane entertainment of the Hunger Games. Though Collins has created a dystopian setting, readers can hope she has different plans for its future.

**HOW TO:  
Write an Essay**

**MY PLAN**

**Introduction**

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**Paragraph 1**

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**Paragraph 2**

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**Paragraph 3**

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**Conclusion**

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