

## *Fahrenheit 451* Essay Prompt

*Fahrenheit 451* includes many **themes** or messages. Remembering everything that you have learned about writing a five-paragraph essay, choose a theme from those listed below.

### **PURPOSE:**

Write an essay in which you prove that **your chosen theme can be found in the novel**. You **MUST** use only textual evidence from *Fahrenheit* to support your argument. Use at least three quotations from the novel that you cite correctly.

- Advanced technology, unless used with care, can be destructive to a productive society.
- True change in society can only occur if an individual is willing to take risks.
- Those who do not learn from their mistakes are doomed to repeat them.
- Society often makes it difficult to be an individual.

**THEME: True Change in society can only occur if an individual is willing to take risks.**

1. Name one character that caused change.

2. Name the changes this character caused. This could be changes to another person or changes in the world at large. Name at least three.

3. What risks did the character take? Name three.

4. Name one character who was too afraid to cause change.

5. How do we know they were too afraid to cause change? What changes could they have caused?

6. What other characters caused change or were too afraid to change? How do we know risk was necessary for this?

**THEME:** Advanced technology, unless used with care, can be destructive to a productive society.

1. Name the various types of advanced technology that appear in the novel. Discuss at least three.

2. Discuss how these technologies are abused or take over people's lives?

3. How have these technologies destroyed a productive society?

4. Discuss a person/people in the novel that recognize this destruction and try to help the society "get better."

5. Does this person/people succeed?



**THEME:** Those who do not learn from their mistakes are doomed to repeat them.

1. Name three people who make mistakes in the novel. What are the mistakes?

2. Do these people learn from these mistakes and correct their actions in the future? Why or why not? Explain.

3. Might some people in this society be incapable of 'learning from their mistakes?' Explain.

4. What mistakes did the F451 society, as a whole, make? Are they being corrected? How?

5. How can this theme be connected to the idea of social criticism (which is one of the elements of science fiction writing)?

**THEME: Society often makes it difficult to be an individual.**

1. Discuss some ways in which society has the power to make it difficult to be an individual. Where do we see this in Fahrenheit 451?

2. Who are some of the characters in F451 who are incapable of being individuals because of the influence from society? Explain how they are being influenced.

3. Discuss characters that discover the power they have to break away from society anyway. How do they do it?

4. What are the pros and cons of breaking away from society? Where do we see these in the novel?