Fahrenheit 451: Social Criticism

Write a four paragraph paper explaining two things in our society that Ray Bradbury is criticizing in his book *Fahrenheit 451*. Choose two parts or ideas in the novel that work as social criticism. Keep each of the two ideas separate in their own paragraphs. In each body paragraph, explain how Bradbury criticizes society. What character says what? And then explain how what is being criticized in the future is actually very similar to what exists in our world today. Then explain why this is bad, or at least, why Bradbury thinks this is bad.

Grading: paper will be graded based on my rubric, which makes content out of 6 points and grammar and usage out of 4 points. Paper must be typed and have proper formatting, which includes double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 pt. font, proper heading, 1 inch margins, and no extra line spacing. (Use your previous paper as an example.) **Do not use** *you*, *your*, or any other form of the second person. Stay away from such phrases as *in my opinion*, *I think*, *I feel*, *to me*, and so forth. Do not use *I*, *me*, or *my* at all. You need a title that tells the reader what your paper is going to be about. Remember that novels are underlined. Do not refer to quotes as quotes. Refer to as words or passage or nothing.

Paragraph 1 (Introduction):

When writing an introduction, follow ANT.

Attention getter – get the reader's attention.

- rhetorical question
- relevant quote from an outside source
- relevant quote from the story
- fact or statistic
- description of initial response to the work (this might be a good one for this paper.)
 - Example: When readers first read Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*, they might think that he is criticizing a possible future society. On a closer reading, readers will see that Bradbury is actually using a future setting to ridicule our world today.
- shocking or amusing generalization.

Whichever method you decide to use, make sure the attention-getter is relevant to the topic of your paper. The attention-getter should relate to the topic of your paper.

Necessary information:

- author's full name Ray Bradbury (use author's full name the first time only. After that, use only the author's last name).
- Title of story <u>Fahrenheit 451</u>
- Brief plot summary in two to five sentences briefly remind your readers what happened in the story. Highlight the major action of the story, especially those parts that are relevant to your paper.

Thesis:

Your thesis should consist of a topic and limiting ideas. It should never be a question. It should be the last sentence of the introduction paragraph. The thesis should make it clear what two ideas you are focusing on in the rest of the paper.

Example:

Although Bradbury sets the story in a distant future, his goal is to make readers aware of some faults, such as ______ and ______, in today's world.

<u> Paragraph 2 – Body</u>

- Topic sentence: a topic sentence has a topic and a limiting idea, or a focus. Your topic is the social criticism in *Fahrenheit 451*. Your focus is the specific part of the book that is criticizing a specific part of society.
 - **Example**: Bradbury criticizes the quality of school through the character of Clarisse.
- Provide a quote or a paraphrase of a passage that deals with social criticism. Give page numbers if you quote.
 - Make sure to introduce quote or paraphrase. Tell your reader who is saying the quote or which characters are involved in the passage.
 - **Example:** After Montag has been seeing Clarisse for a while, he asks her why she is not in school. She responds that she does not go and that she is not missed. She tells Montag that she is "anti-social" and that she dislikes the school because . . .
- After you set up the quote or paraphrase, then tell your reader what about today's society Bradbury is criticizing. Make sure to explain why Bradbury or you (Do not use "I") think this is bad.
 - **Example**: What Bradbury is making fun of is the way that schools make students sit quietly all day. This is probably bad because it does not encourage creativity. In this passage, Bradbury also criticizes the use of ...

<u> Paragraph 3 – Body</u>

- Repeat the same steps as paragraph 2.
- Make sure you have a different limiting idea from the paragraph 2.

Paragraph 5 – Conclusion

- **Reword** your thesis. (You may want to start the rewording of your thesis with a signal word: e.g., *thus, therefore, in short, as one can see, it is obvious then,* and *then.*)
- Tie all your points together. Use 2 3 sentences to do this. Stress why it is important that Bradbury criticizes these things. Or stress why it is important for people to read the novel in order to get these criticism. You might want to tell your readers what they should learn from the ideas that you have brought out in the body paragraphs. (Warning: do not use *you*.)
- **Clincher:** Try to end your paper with a short sentence that reinforces your point in the paper. This last sentence should do one of two things. It should either include some words from your attention-getter or it should include most words from your title, if your title is