

SAMPLE STUDENT  
Mrs. Duggan  
Grade 7 ELA  
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## **The Giver Final Essay**

### **Introduction**

TAG + Topic Sentence  
Brief Summary of Plot  
Transition to Paper Topic  
Thesis statement

Lois Lowry's dystopian novel The Giver is centered about a boy named Jonas who is given a very important job within his community, *The Receiver of Memory*. Unlike our community, children in Jonas's community are assigned jobs by the group of people who run the community, The Elders. In fact, the citizens of the community are given very little freedom to choose anything because The Elders had decided that "Sameness" was a much easier and safer way to live. As a result, the citizens live in a world without color, choice, challenges, pain, emotion, or memories. Oftentimes, the way dystopian societies are created in novels help readers to form an opinion about elements in our world. Lois Lowry's dystopian novel The Giver supports the statement, "With the freedom of choice also comes great risk," through the job and spouse assignments, Rosemary's release, and Jonas's escape.

## **Body Paragraphs**

### **Claim**

Context (lead in to text evidence)

Text Evidence

Analysis

The first way the statement, "With the freedom of choice also comes great risk," is supported through The Giver is through the assignment of jobs and spouses in the community. After Jonas begins to see colors, he becomes angry that he can't choose the color of his tunics. But, he realizes that bigger choices in life should be made for him and the citizens. For example, on page 98 Jonas says, "Oh, I see what you mean. It wouldn't matter for a newchild's toy. But it does matter later, doesn't it? We don't dare to let people make choices of their own....Definitely not safe...What if they were allowed to choose their own mate, and chose wrong?..." This proves the risk involved with having a choice because having the ability to choose means there is a possibility of a wrong or incorrect choice. Because the society is "protecting" everyone from pain, the citizens do not have an opportunity to choose and therefore are protected from the consequences of a wrong choice. However, the citizens in Jonas's community are missing out on potential rewards that may come with being able to make their own choices, and citizens are also unable to learn and grow after making a "wrong" choice.

The second way the statement, "With the freedom of choice also comes great risk," is supported is through Jonas's escape from the community. After Jonas escapes, the realities of the danger outside the community begin to set in. Because he had not eaten, he and

Gabriel were feeling the effects and were starving. For example, "If he had stayed in the community he would not be. It was as simple as that. Once he had yearned for a choice. Then, when he had a choice, he had made the wrong one: the choice to leave. And now he was starving," (173). This quote illustrates the discomfort and danger that came with Jonas having and making the choice to leave the community. The quote shows that although one wants to have the freedom to choose, it can be problematic to choose wrong. Because Jonas made the choice to leave, he put himself and Gabriel in danger.

The final way the statement, "With the freedom of choice also comes great risk," is supported is through Rosemary's choice to apply for release. After a while, the Giver finally explains to Jonas what had happened to the previous receiver, Rosemary, after she chose to be released. The Giver explains on page 144, "I think I mentioned to you once...that when she was gone the memories came back to the people...for a while, they overwhelmed the people. All those feelings. They'd never experienced that before. I was so devastated by my own grief at her loss and my own feeling of failure, that I didn't even try to help them through it. I was angry, too." This quote demonstrates that because Rosemary had the choice and opportunity for release, she put the community in danger and created chaos by giving them memories that they could not handle. Furthermore, as a result of her choice, the Giver was upset that he could not help the community, putting the community at risk. This illustrates the way someone's individual choices can impact others in a negative way.

## **Conclusion**

## Restated Thesis Statement

“So What?” - Make a statement that connects paper to life

In conclusion, the statement, “With the freedom of choice also comes great risk,” is supported through The Giver through the assignments given in the community, Rosemary’s release and Jonas’s escape. Although having the freedom of choice is critical, though one needs to be careful when making choices to avoid negative consequences that affect others. Although making a “wrong” choice may negatively impact oneself or others, usually there is value in making a wrong choice because there can be lessons learned.