

SAMPLE OPEN RESPONSE

INTRODUCTION

Topic Sentence + TAG

Brief Summary of Plot

Transition to Paper Topic

Thesis Statement

The dystopian novel, *The Giver*, by Lois Lowry, is about an eleven year-old boy who learns that everything he thought he knew about his life was a lie. In Jonas' community, everything is perfect because there is no diversity or freedom of choice. Everyone in the community seems satisfied. In stories, the setting is where and when a story takes place, and greatly impacts the way a story can play out. In *The Giver*, the setting impacts the plot, characters and setting because of the rules, assignments and the ceremonies.

FIRST CLAIM

Claim

Context

Text Evidence

Analysis

The first way the setting impacts the story is through the community's rules. During the exposition, a pilot mistakenly flies too low over Jonas' community. Page 2 states, "Within minutes, the speakers have crackled again, and the voice, reassuring now and less urgent, had explained that a pilot in-training had misread his navigational instructions and made a wrong turn...Needless to say, he will be released," (2). This demonstrates the way that, because of the setting's rules, individuals are severely punished for making mistakes, such as release. If the setting had not imposed a rule such as this, the pilot would probably still be allowed to be a part of the community. Without this detail about the setting, the story would be different because the citizens would not live in fear of the potential for release, even if their action was just a mistake.

SECOND CLAIM

Claim

Context

Text Evidence

Analysis

The second way the setting impacts the story is through the community's **Assignments**. The futuristic, dystopian setting is unique because the jobs, called Assignments, are given to the citizens when they become 12, based on the individual's interests. Jonas is close to receiving his Assignment at the upcoming Ceremony of Twelves. Jonas does not want to be given an Assignment that would be disappointing for him, so he feels apprehensive about the upcoming Ceremony. For example, on page 19 the text states, "Though he had been reassured by the talk with his parents, he hadn't the slightest idea what Assignment the Elders would be selecting for his future, or how he might feel about it when the day came." This illustrates the way that the setting impacts the story because if the Community did not assign jobs to its citizens, Jonas would have more of an active role in determining his job. Furthermore, because Jonas' Assignment is out of his control, the Assignment given to him will likely determine the remainder of the plot events and outcome of the story.