

Name:

Response to Literature Essay for *The Giver*

Choose one of the following essay prompts and write a paper for that prompt that:

Structure:

- Addresses all parts of the prompt.
- Includes an introduction with a thesis, the main idea for your paper.
- Has three or more “beefy” body paragraphs that support this thesis.
- Ends with a conclusion that wraps up the paper and gives a strong last impression of your ideas.

Format:

- Is 500-700 words long for 7th graders (About 2 ½ typed, double spaced pages)
- Has a word count at the end of the paper.
- Is double spaced.
- Is typed if possible, in size 12 Times New Roman with 1 inch margins.
- Is written in black or blue ink if typing is impossible.
- Has an original title—not “The Giver” or “The Giver Essay”

Conventions and Style:

- Has appropriate conventions, including grammar, spelling, and sentence structure.
- Contains enough information that someone who has not read the book could follow your argument.
- Does not try to retell the whole story, and instead makes a claim about the story.
- Avoids contractions (can’t, won’t, etc.).
- Avoids statements like “**I** think a theme in *The Giver* is...” and uses ones like “A theme in *The Giver* is...” instead.
- Avoids statements like “If **you** were Jonas...” and uses ones like “If another person were in Jonas’s position...”

Remember: A “beefy” paragraph needs:

- a **topic sentence** that informs the reader of what the paragraph is about,
- at least two pieces of **evidence** (quotes) with **page numbers** and
- explanations** of how each piece of evidence relates to the topic sentence
- a **closing sentence** that ties all the evidence back to the paragraph’s topic sentence and the paper’s thesis.
- In an essay, these “beefy” body paragraphs should link to other paragraphs with **transitions**.

Response to Literature: *The Giver* Essay Prompt

CHOICES:

After experiencing the feeling of love from the Giver and his memories, Jonas thought about the way life must have been when there was love and realized it was probably a "dangerous way to live." Think about what Jonas meant. What was "dangerous" about that kind of life, and what was a "safe" life like? What were the advantages and disadvantages of each choice?

Write an essay in which you either support or criticize Jonas's decision to escape the community in light of the choice he made between a safe life and a dangerous one.

Example Thesis:

- In Lois Lowry's book, *The Giver*, Jonas's choice to leave the Community, while it endangers himself, is ultimately the right one because it is the only way to help himself, Gabriel, and his community.

Example Topic Sentences:

- Jonas is endangered by his journey, but would also have suffered in other ways had he remained at home.
- In addition to his personal suffering, Jonas would also have lost Gabriel, a fate he averts at least temporarily by bringing the baby.
- In addition to prolonging and enriching their lives, the flight from the Community releases the memories back to the Community, allowing them to reclaim a life worth living.