**Dystopia**

1. What is it?
   1. Fictional society that is the antithesis of a utopia
   2. Characterized by an oppressive social control, such as an authoritarian or totalitarian government
2. Common Traits in Dystopian Societies
   1. Societal
      1. Has 1 fatal flaw
         1. Class system (*Brave New World –* alphas, betas, gammas, etc.)
      2. Strict Conformity among citizens present (individuality is bad)
      3. Family life is conflicted or non-existent
         1. *1984* – Children spy on their parents – deliberate breakdown of family structure
      4. Often criticize current trends in culture
   2. Political
      1. Often present governments set on political, social and economic control
         1. Fascism, Socialism, Chaos, Anarchy, Totalitarianism, Dictatorship (as some examples)
      2. Politics are flawed
         1. Oppressive in nature
         2. Negative connotations among inhabitants of the society
         3. Pessimistic views of ruling class or government that is brutal or uncaring
         4. Rules with an “iron fist”
      3. There are often resistance groups that form against the governing body (*V for Vendetta*, *Children of Men*, *Brazil*, *The Island*, etc.)
   3. Economic
      1. Theme of privatization
         1. Big businesses have far more control than any kind of government (*Feed*)
         2. “Mega-corps” Cyberpunk sub themes of corruption in an all powerful corporation
      2. State is in control of Economy
         1. Deficiency of privatization
         2. Usual lack of efficiency – e.g. over extended welfare system where people do nothing
   4. Religious
      1. Themes usually critique religion
         1. “Blind faith” – people participating in religion without fully or partially understanding it
         2. Or the state enforces a religion through various methods
         3. Usually used as a means of oppression (*Handmaid’s Tale*)