Name:

“It’s east to lose sight of what’s real, of what matters” –Lacie, *Black Mirror*

Haflin

Satire

Date:

*Black Mirror* Viewing Guide: Season 3, Episode 1: “Nosedive”

**Background:** Modern Postmodern philosopher and English Professor Debra Shaw explored the relationship between technology and Postmodernism in her book *Technoculture: The Key Concepts*. In it, Shaw explores many topics, none more significant than Hyperreality, defined as “an inability of consciousness to distinguish reality from a simulation of reality, especially in technologically advanced postmodern societies.” This episode explores this reality via Sci-Fi.

**Instructions:** Please watch the episode, and respond to the following questions.

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| 1. Reflect on the opening scene. What similarities can you see between this world and ours? **Minimum 2 sentences**. 2. Neil Gaiman, prominent sci-fi author (*American Gods, Coraline*) says that science fiction “Asks the question, ‘If this continues…’”. **What question did the writers appear to ask and answer in this episode?** 3. Do you think that the changes seen in the world are realistic, i.e. that they could happen? Why or why not? **Minimum 4 sentences**. 4. Lacie’s speech appears genuine, but is obviously self-serving, as her brother calls her “you fucking sociopath”. Connect this to *The Truman Show*. **Minimum 3 sentences.** |
| 1. The writers are clearly making a point concerning free will and our social constructs. What do you think they’re saying about free will?   **Claim:**  **Evidence to Support the Claim (to be used for an essay):**  Lastly, review the news article provided by Mr. Haflin |