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Sample Introduction to *Fahrenheit 451* Thesis Essay

Authors of dystopian fiction often rely on similar procedures as futurologists in order to craft their fiction. Neil Gaiman, contemporary author of science fiction novels *American Gods* and *Stardust,* wrote that speculative fiction authors seek to answer three questions: “What if…? If only…, and if this goes on…” (*F451* 1). Ray Bradbury, writing in the 1950s, asked himself two questions: 1) What if society stopped reading books in favor of watching television? And 2) What if firemen burned books instead of putting out fires? The resulting answer appears in Bradbury’s novel, *Fahrenheit 451.* An author of 11 novels, 5 pieces of nonfiction, and 39 story collections, Bradbury wanted to emphasize the written word’s importance. In the *Fahrenheit 451* Ray Bradbury both warns against the danger of allowing the significance of books to decline and asserts the value of the written word (MI). Specifically, speeches given by Professor Faber and Captain Beatty convey Bradbury’s social criticisms and personal ideology. Bradbury’s warning concerning addiction to technology is similarly reflected in David Foster Wallace’s *Infinite Jest*, which predicted the phenomenon of Snapchat.

Highlighted in Yellow—general background information about the genre

Blue text—background on Ray Bradbury

Underlined—main idea and developing ideas.

Highlighted in blue—hint at the reach for significance