

Help to Revise!

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Thesis Revision

Incorrect Thesis:

Although many believe that F451 is a fearful novel about government censorship, F451 is nevertheless a novel that warns against many future problems.

Much Better Thesis:

Although many critics believe that F451 is a fearful novel about government censorship, Ray Bradbury is nevertheless trying to warn of the likelihood that humankind could become disconnected from each other because they are constantly entertained.

Assertion Revision

Bad Assertions

Assertion 1: The F451 society removes any free time by speeding up how fast-paced the society lives.

Assertion 2: In the novel, most of the residents have something called a TV parlor, which is like our version of the family room.

Assertion 3: In the novel, the society is very disconnected from each other and no one is in love.

Better Assertions

Assertion 1: Ray Bradbury uses the removal of literature and leisure to symbolize a disconnection from personal reflection.

Assertion 2: In the novel, the TV parlor and seashell show the reader that advanced technology can hinder the creation of long-lasting personal relationships.

Assertion 3: Bradbury, through the removal of personal reflection and meaningful relationships, is trying to warn readers that the loss of such human connection will lead to an overall lack of empathy in society.

The Body Paragraph

A ***Non-Persuasive*** (Bad) Body Paragraph

Near the end of the story, Montag tries to escape from the city. During the escape scene, the parlor walls broadcast a report about Montag, and the citizens of the F451 society all rise to look for Montag. This is important because the TV walls count to ten, and then everyone in the city goes to their front door. While they do not find Montag because he escapes to the river, it is still shocking. Ray Bradbury is very symbolic in this scene.

A Better Body Paragraph

Ray Bradbury uses the unthinking population of F451 to warn readers about the dangers of removing critical thinking from a society. Near the end of the novel, when Montag is fleeing from the city, Montag narrowly escapes the detection of the citizens that had been ordered by the TV parlors to look for him. And because they were all sitting mindlessly in front of their televisions, and because they had become an unthinking society, they accepted the broadcast without question. While this scene is an important one in the plotline of F451, I feel that this scene is many times misinterpreted because the reader cannot help but think that it is the government that is doing the controlling here. But, in fact, it is the society's choice to stop reading that made them able to be controlled in this manner. This scene represents the "climax" of fears for Bradbury, the final outcome of a society that has disregarded literature. Ray Bradbury's message is that without quality of information for the masses, society will become easily influenced by those with greater knowledge. So, it is not the government that is overbearing in Bradbury's novel, the government is the same as it has always been throughout history – instead it is the choice to remove literature from the society that makes the people less rebellious, less likely to question authority, and as a result, more easily controlled by the TV parlor broadcasts. Perhaps it is Ray Bradbury's ultimate fear that society will blame the government for society's downward spiral, and not themselves.