

## **Writing Assignment Analysis of Social Concepts**

### ***Pleasantville***

While watching the movie *Pleasantville*, you should keep a critical eye toward the concept of norms, values, roles, and culture. In other words, you should draw on material that is talked about in the book, to gain a better understanding of the ways that culture and socialization can affect, change, and react to social structure.

Whether you like, dislike, agree, or disagree is not the point of the discussion. This is **not a movie review**, you are, in fact, conducting qualitative archival research, and thus your answer should focus on the sociological aspects of the movie.

You must **answer 8 of the 10 questions**. The **length for each question** should be, at least, two paragraphs and, at least 200 words. Remember, you should be conducting a critical analysis of what you see in the movie. Therefore, you will be giving your opinion and supporting your opinion/comments with social concepts and theories from the textbook.

All writing assignments must be typed, double-spaced, 1" margins, 12 point font (Times New Roman), and pages numbered. Your last name must be included in the header along with the page number.

***The assignment must be submitted as an attachment in a word document (.doc or .docx). No other formats will be accepted.***

*This is not a movie review – I want your opinion. Your opinion should be supported by the sociological concepts and theories covered this semester.*

1. How does the movie illustrate the ways in which roles shape and constrain social behavior?
2. How does the movie illustrate American "culture and values"? (Both past and present?)
3. In what ways does the movie draw on stereotypes about the roles of men and women in society?
4. In what ways does the movie draw on stereotypes about Race in society?
5. What are some of the women's issues that are raised in the movie?
6. What were the different groups in the movie? What are the dynamics of their interactions? How does that connect to status?
7. What is social stratification? How was Pleasantville's society structured? Did the attitude, values, and ideologies of the people of Pleasantville perpetuate equality or inequality of Pleasantville's society (the citizens of Pleasantville)? Explain your answer.
8. What are the various ways that social behavior is controlled in the movie?
9. How is deviance defined? How was deviance portrayed in the movie?
10. What does the movie illustrate about structural change?

#### **Bonus Question:**

What is the significance of the changing of the movie from black-and-white to Technicolor?