

## **VLOG Script Outline**

**Directions:** For this assignment, you will use the novel that you chose for the independent reading project. You will use this script to prepare a 4-6 minute long video log which you will edit and share with our class at our Vlogger Viewing Party.

### **Final VLOG Length**

4-6 minutes

Your script should include the following:

#### **1) An introductory hook – grab your viewer’s attention!**

##### **Some ideas:**

- Ask a question: “Have you ever wished you could go on a grand adventure?”
- Give your thoughts on a character: “Let me tell you about the bravest person you’ve ever seen...”
- Start with a quote from the book: “Theo jumped up from his chair and toppled over the lamp when the green alien suddenly appeared on his coffee table.”

Imagine living in a world where books are burned instead of read. A world in which literature is considered dangerous and off-limits to the average person. Imagine a society in which deep thinking isn’t encouraged, and thoughtful conversation between two people is considered odd.

#### **2) The title and author of your book, along with any relevant information about the book’s author and their background your viewer would want to know:**

In *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury, this dystopian world comes to life. Ray Bradbury wrote the novel in 1951, when television was first starting to enter most American homes. Bradbury realized that television was changing the way that Americans interacted with one another, and wrote the novel as a warning of the potential

consequences of this new form of media.

**3) The exposition (setup) for the story:**

- Describe the main character(s)
- Describe the overall setting
- Explain the initial conflict – what challenge gets the story started?

The protagonist Guy Montag is a fireman. The opening pages show Montag spraying books with kerosene exploding out of a fireman's hose and then swiftly lighting a match, destroying them all. Montag admits that the books are "a pleasure to burn" (4). The reader understands right away that Montag enjoys his vocation as a fireman.

As Montag returns home from work one night, he meets a seventeen-year-old girl named Clarisse McClellan. Montag's conversation with Clarisse is another clear sign to the reader that the setting of this novel is atypical. Clarisse asks Montag if he reads the books that he burns at work. Montag reveals that reading books is against the law in this society. His conversation with Clarisse is a personal one, and the reader understands from their dialogue that having personal conversations is not something Montag is used to. He seems uncomfortable throughout and considers Clarisse to be odd, although he continues thinking about their conversation over the next several days. It is clear that their conversation has caused Montag to question various aspects of his own life.

The novel's main conflict simmers throughout the plot.

After meeting Clarisse, Montag returns home to his wife Mildred who is wearing “seashells” (a version of AirPods) throughout their conversation. Mildred, Montag learns, has spent hours with her television “family” playing on the walls of their parlor, mindlessly consuming media all day long. You can tell that Montag is unsatisfied in his personal life, and that dissatisfaction creeps ever so slowly toward his work as a fireman.

In later scenes, Montag watches as an old woman refuses to give up the illegal books in her home and chooses to burn to death with them instead. At this moment, a journey of dizzying, deep reflection is underway and continues throughout the novel. Montag questions not only his vocation, but his relationships, his personal beliefs, and his view of society itself.

**4) Give your review of the book to your audience by analyzing it using textual evidence:**

- Did you personally like the book? Why or why not? BE SPECIFIC HERE!
- What was the most engaging aspect of this book? Who was the most compelling character or characters?
- Did you learn any important lessons from the book? What were they?
- What type of person would like this book? Why?
- Would you recommend this book to a friend? Why or why not?

***Remember: Use textual evidence to support your answer to these questions!***

*Fahrenheit 451* is perhaps the most important book for citizens in the social media age to read and understand. While it can be a difficult book to fully appreciate the first time it is read due to dated references that take a bit of decoding, the themes it explores and the questions it raises are vital to modern life.

Like the characters in Bradbury's dystopia, modern Americans are connected via the internet to anything and everything all at once. We can instantly choose watch any content imaginable on screens that span entire walls, just like in *Fahrenheit 451*. On the streets of any city in America, one will doubtless pass several people with AirPods buzzing in their ears, just like Mildred's seashells. Technologies that Bradbury couldn't even imagine in 1951 such as virtual and augmented reality, self-driving cars, drones, and the concept of "smart cities" are beginning to exist in our world today.

Anyone who likes to think about the consequences of technology on humanity and individuals should read this book. It may cause you to "build a mirror factory... and take a long look in them (157).

**5) Identify & analyze two literary elements in your novel. How does the author's tone, the mood of the novel, or the author's use of figurative language (metaphor, simile, imagery) affect your novel?**

*Fahrenheit 451* has a gloomy, dissatisfied tone throughout the novel. The author combines the dark setting of a dictatorial state with the protagonist's dismal view of his own existence and purpose in life. This can be seen clearly as Montag constantly questions both himself and those around him. "How long is it," Montag asks Mildred, "since you were really bothered? About something important, something real? (49). Montag views Mildred's life as vapid, shallow, and meaningless. Because she is constantly pacified with technology, she is unable to even begin to understand or to be "bothered"

by the deeper questions in life.

**6) Final Thoughts:**

- Did you change at all after reading this book? If so, how? Describe.
- Did this particular book or this project, in general, affect how you feel about reading? If so, how? If not, why not?
- Would you read another book by this author? Why or why not?
- What questions did this book leave you with, if any?
- If you could do this project over again, would you choose this book? Why or why not?

Perhaps the most engaging aspect of this book is Montag's own realization, however simple, that the written word holds deep importance in society and remains important despite technological advances. Montag's realization that literature must be protected and saved for future generations brings up so many thoughts and feelings for myself as an English teacher. It leads me to wonder whether Bradbury's message is that the space between the lines of a novel is perhaps more important than the novel itself. Our ability as humans to think, reason, analyze, and take quiet moments to ourselves in deep contemplation and self-reflection are key to the human experience. Bradbury's ability to translate these thoughts and questions and transmit them in the narrative form is the key to the success of the novel.

## VLOG Grading Rubric

	<b>Score</b>
Introduction with an engaging hook, title of book, and author	/20
The exposition is fully explained (character, setting, & conflict)	/20
Recommendations are made to the viewers using appropriate textual evidence from the book	/20
Final thoughts section include a thoughtful appraisal of the independent reading project and the student offers a reflection on their experience as a reader	/20
Student uses an appropriate video editing platform to engage the viewer and enhance the visual appeal of their vlog	/10
Proper voice volume and pace, few “umms” and “likes,” final vlog shows evidence of preparation and rehearsal	/5
Participation as an audience member during the Vlogger Viewing Party is respectful, engaged, and appropriate.	/5
<b>Total Score</b>	<b>/100</b>