Name

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*Anthem* Analytical Essay

A dystopia is defined as a futuristic imagined universe in which oppressive societal control and the illusion of a perfect society are maintained through corporate, bureaucratic, technological, moral, or totalitarian control. Dystopias, through an exaggerated worse-case scenario, make a criticism about a current trend, societal normal, or political system. Dystopias are all about consequences, choices, and gray areas. There are specific characteristics that can oftentimes be used to identify whether a society is set in a dystopian environment. The novel *Anthem* by Ayn Rand is a perfect dystopia because propaganda is used to control the citizens of the society, information, independent thought, and freedom are restricted, and citizens must conform to uniform expectations.

*Anthem* is the story about a dystopian protagonist named Equality 7-2521 who craves independence and free will in his collectivist world. His society is touted as a utopia, a perfect place, because everyone is supposed to be equal. Unfortunately, the environment Equality 7-2521 lives in is far from indefectible as propaganda is used to control the citizens of the society. For example, the protagonist states, “We strive to be like all our brother men, for all men must be alike. Over the portals of the Palace of the World Council, there are words cut in the marble, which we repeat to ourselves whenever we are tempted: *‘We are one in all and all in one. There are no men but only the great WE, one, indivisible, and forever’*” (Rand 19). Propaganda is information that is deliberately spread to harm a person, group, or movement. In Equality’s world, the words cut into marble are propaganda that is used to control the citizens of his world. They believe, through brainwashing, they can get people to believe their world is equal. It is obvious Equality is questioning the collectivism his world values as he says all citizens “must” repeat the advertisement to themselves to extinguish independent thought.