

Portfolio of Writing

Jamie Lay – 2000911

Film and TV (BA)

Wordcount – 1414

Tutor's Name – Robert Jones

A Second Age of Revolution (2095)

For this Ways of Thinking essay I will be writing about my idea for a story/film about the world in 2095. In 2095 the world is run by news conglomerates and freedom is a thing of the past. I will show you my thought process for how I got from the initial task given to me, which was to create a story about the world in 2095 to the story idea I have ended up with. Once I was given the task, the first thing I decided to do was to grab a camera, take a load of stills and put together a mood board to find some inspiration for my story. I walked around Swansea looking for nice, brighter areas to represent the richer places of 2095. I was fortunate to be capturing images of a rougher and neglected area of 2095 in the midst of a national lockdown to make it look more rundown and further inspire my idea. Once I had put my mood board together it sparked an idea for the main theme of my story, which is revolution.

With revolution being the key theme to my story, I thought it was best to conduct some research on the subject. I obviously understand the core concept of a revolution but have never looked into it enough to consider myself educated on the matter. I had heard of famous historical revolutions such as The American Revolution and The French Revolution, so I started to do some research on what they were. I came across something I found very interesting while researching and that is, the Age of Revolution (1774-1849). The Age of Revolution is a period where a number of significant revolutionary movements occurred across the world. Some of the most notable movements being the American Revolution (1765-1783) the French Revolution (1789-1799) the Spanish American War of Independence (1808-1833) and Greek War of Independence (1821-1829). (Age of Revolutions Resources, 2021)

The American Revolution 1765-1783

This revolution is the first of many revolutions to come in the age of revolution. Independence was declared in 1776, but it was 1765 when the conflict first began after American colonials declared that there should be no taxation without representation of the colonies in British Parliament. The war first started in the Battle of Lexington and Concord. The revolution ended in 1777 but then France joined on the side of the American colonists with the British Empire focusing on the French instead of the revolutionists. The conflict then eventually ended with the Treaty of Paris in 1783. (Revolutionary War, 2021)

The French Revolution 1789-1799

After their participation in the American Revolutionary War the French government found themselves in a tremendous amount of debt which resulted in them implementing higher taxes. This as well as poor harvests and resentment against the nobility and church contributed to the beginning of the French Revolution in 1789. It wasn't until 1799 when Napoleon Bonaparte would start the new French Empire. (French Revolution | History, Summary, Timeline, Causes, & Facts, 2021)

The Spanish American War of Independence (1808-1833)

This was a series of conflicts which was sparked by Napoleon's French Empire invading Spain in 1807. There was initially very little support for independence just mostly disagreements with Spain's policies. Over the next decade the government became more instable and then more efforts towards independence would occur. (Introduction - The World of 1898: The Spanish-American War (Hispanic Division, Library of Congress), 2021)

Greek War of Independence 1821-1829

This was wages against the Ottoman Empire starting in 1821. The Greeks initially struggled alone against the Ottoman Empire, they were later joined by the Russian Empire, Great Britain and the Kingdom of France which proved crucial in the fight for independence. This was not the first attempt at independence, several had occurred since the Fall of Constantinople in 1453, but this was the first that ended in success. (ANON, 2021)

I knew I wanted my story to be based on revolution but after researching about The Age of Revolution, I decided that I wanted my story to be about a second age of revolution. I thought it would be a cool idea to create a world in 2095 where the oppressed and the collectively fed up begin a global uprising against these dictator-like news conglomerates that run the world.

The next piece of research I got into was about dystopia and dystopian films. As you know the story idea is set in 2095, so I thought it would be a good idea to look at the future aspect of the world I need to create. I found some information on different types of dystopia in literature, there is environmental destruction, this is becoming in regular in modern day literature as it an increasing threat and will affect all of our lives; survival, this also very common in dystopian literature which is no surprise as a main theme is most dystopian books and films is the quest for survival; nuclear disaster and religious control, these do not really fit into my story, so I didn't do much research on these. I then came across these three types of dystopia which do fit into my story and they are, technological control, which I believe I will need to know more about as the antagonist of my story is a huge news conglomerate. There is also loss of individualism dystopia, in my 2095 world there is no freedom, and the people are oppressed so a loss of individualism comes with it and the final

type of dystopia that relates to my story is government control as this news conglomerate is kind of similar to a global government. (Common Themes, 2021)

I have been watching a lot of dystopian movies and futuristic films trying to find some inspiration and also help me further understand dystopia. I started off with the classic dystopia films like *Bladerunner* (1982), *The Matrix* (1999) and even *WALL-E* (2008). *WALL-E* is an environmental disaster type of dystopia movie, but I think it could inspire me when creating the antagonists of my story, the humans from *WALL-E*, who ruined the Earth that now only occupies *WALL-E*, they are not much different to my news conglomerate tycoons. While I was finding dystopian films to watch I came across a movie called *Ex Machina* (2014) which is basically about a robot who is almost indistinguishable to a human being and although my story is not about artificial intelligence per se, I found that artificial intelligent beings are somewhat symbolic to the character in my 2095 world, they just want freedom but to achieve freedom they must do whatever is necessary to overthrow those who oppress them. I also found *The Hunger Games* (2012) to be quite inspiring with the lack of freedom and the loss of individualism, just people doing what they have to just to survive.

What is my next step to further progress my story idea? Although I am happy with my idea it is far from finished. If I want this story to be interesting and believable, I have to do a lot more research into revolutions, what they are, how they are done and why they happen. As well as research into revolutions I would like to do a lot more research into dystopian films and also watch more dystopian films. Following more extensive research I want to actually create the world that I want my story to be in, a world in 2095 without freedom and global oppression from an almost Nazi like news conglomerate that is running this world, I believe this will be the toughest step in this piece of work, creating a world from just a task given to me which was given to me that only gave me the date and a news conglomerate running the world at that time. This world is going to need characters and those characters are going to have backgrounds; this world has a history and I need to create it myself. But I do believe if I do a thorough researching of dystopian worlds it will help me a lot with my ideas. Another thing I want to do going forward is to make a rip-o-matic, trying to put fan footage together to create almost like a trailer for my story idea. I also found a song I would like to include in this rip-o-matic and that is 'The Revolution Will Not Be Televised' by Gil Scott-Heron.

Reference list

The Historical Association. 2021. *Age Of Revolutions Resources*. [online] Available at: <<https://www.history.org.uk/secondary/categories/514/info/3637/age-of-revolutions-resources>> [Accessed 4 January 2021].

HISTORY. 2021. *Revolutionary War*. [online] Available at: <<https://www.history.com/topics/american-revolution/american-revolution-history>> [Accessed 4 January 2021].

Encyclopaedia Britannica. 2021. *French Revolution | History, Summary, Timeline, Causes, & Facts*. [online] Available at: <<https://www.britannica.com/event/French-Revolution>> [Accessed 4 January 2021].

Loc.gov. 2021. *Introduction - The World Of 1898: The Spanish-American War (Hispanic Division, Library Of Congress)*. [online] Available at: <<https://loc.gov/rr/hispanic/1898/intro.html>> [Accessed 4 January 2021].

2021. [online] Available at: <https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Greek_War_of_Independence> [Accessed 4 January 2021].

Dystopian Literature for Young Adults. 2021. *Common Themes*. [online] Available at: <<https://dystopianyaliterature.weebly.com/common-themes.html>> [Accessed 4 January 2021].