

Name

Teacher's Name

Class

Date

Argumentative Mentor Text

Making your own decisions and following your heart is important to shape you into the person you will become. What if all that were taken away though? You no longer have the ability to do what you want because the government controls everything. You're under constant surveillance and can't go back once a choice has been made. For the people in *The Giver* by Lois Lowry and *Divergent* by Veronica Roth control from the government is their way of life. Everything they do has to benefit the community. But does conforming to the rules and demands take first place over your own self interest? I believe that your own path should take first place over these rules of control and imprisonment.

Tris, the main character in *Divergent*, deals with lots of control over her self interest within the faction system. Factions are a way to divide groups of people based on what quality of personality they find the most important (Roth 2). When you reach a certain age you must choose between the factions on where you think you belong. They then stay in that faction for the rest of their life. This takes out any way of going back to re choose their faction if they realize they made a mistake. In the same way that people can't fix their mistakes in *Divergent*, Jonas in *The Giver* has the same type of control put over him by his government. People in his society are assigned husbands and wives and can't pick their own jobs (Lowry 20). What if they don't like their job though? Maybe they're not compatible with the partner assigned to them. It would be in everyone's self interest to fix these terrible mistakes. The rules however say

differently and won't let them do anything to improve their circumstance. I believe these citizens in the societies should be able to fix their mistakes the rules don't allow them to. Making everyone's life improved and avoiding inevitable sadness.

At the same time the demands of the society are dictating their ability to be their true selves. In *Divergent* some people fit into multiple factions (Roth 20). This is strictly forbidden and results in severe punishment. These people, also referred to as divergents, are just trying to follow their hearts. They want to show their true personality but can't because of the rules of the society. Likewise in the Giver people have to take stirring pills (Lowry 36). These pills wipe away emotion and true feeling, leaving just an empty shell of a human in its place. This is the only way of life these people have ever known. Not being able to follow your true path in life is miserable and shouldn't be expected from anyone. If allowed to follow their own path these people would find true emotions. They would be forced outside their comfort zones and opened up to a world of possibility. True happiness would find its way into their hearts and minds, making them realize their true self that has been pushed aside for so long.

Equally important is the fact that these rules about "protecting the community" is really just hurting it. Some rules force people to die for no reason. This can be seen in the Giver with the release ceremonies. People think that the citizens being released are going to a different community or somewhere else (Lowry 7). In reality the truth is a lot darker. Jonas knows that something is wrong and would do anything to break the rules to save this innocent child. I think it would be in everyone's self interest to save an innocent person. If it comes by breaking the rules I think everyone would agree that the person's life is more important. Similar to this is in *Divergent* how they punish the people who are different (Roth 43). In our own history we can see examples of fear and hate against people who are different than what we used to think was

normal. As a world we adapted to change and uniqueness and became better. To do this though people broke the rules. Everyone fought for a better future. Jonas and Tris are trying to put this message of rising up to help people in the minds of everyone.

If the societies had let the people make their own decisions and be themselves I think everything would have been fine. Rules have to be put in place to avoid total chaos. When it ruins people's lives and makes them lose their true self I think it has gone too far. These rules made it exponentially worse for everyone. In the future I think it is important to remember what these books tried to teach us. That following your heart and helping others is more important than following the rules. The government might think they're right but people will realize the mistakes they have made. The people will rise and make the society better as a whole.