

Childhood's End Writing Assignment
Science and Religion Essay

Introductory Paragraph with Thesis Statement Due:	2/20	(10 pts.)
Rough Draft Due:	2/24	(15 pts.)
Final Draft Due:	2/26	(50 pts.)

In the novel Childhood's End, author Arthur C. Clarke explores the relationship between science and religion. In the future utopia he imagines, the two are reliant upon each other:

“Humanity had lost its ancient gods: now it was old enough not to need new ones. Though few had realized it as yet, the fall of religion had been paralleled by a decline in science. There were plenty of technologists, but few original workers extending the frontiers of human knowledge. Curiosity remained, and the leisure to indulge in it, but the heart had been taken out of fundamental scientific research. It seemed futile to spend a lifetime searching for secrets that the Overlords had probably uncovered ages before.” (75)

In a two to three page essay (typed, double spaced, one inch margins), respond to Clarke's idea that *science and religion are linked, and that a decline in one will necessarily lead to a decline in the other*. First, consider and explain why Clarke argues that science and religion are inextricably linked. Use textual evidence (quotations) from the novel to explain his point. Do you agree or disagree? Use specific evidence from literature, history, current events or pop culture to support your claim.

Format:

Introduction: Introduce the novel and the author. Develop a clear thesis statement that makes a claim about the relationship between science and religion in relation to Clarke's claim. Outline the steps that your essay will take to prove your argument.

Body: Use textual evidence (direct quotations and paraphrasing) to make your argument. To cite text, just put the page number in parentheses at the end of the sentence, after the period. Your citations need to be well-integrated in your essay. Introduce quotations and then explain their significance to your argument.

Conclusion: Summarize how you made your argument and indicate the implications of your argument. What does it mean for society if religion and science are strongly correlated (or not)?

Sample Thesis Statement:

In his novel, Childhood's End, Arthur C. Clarke suggests that science and religion, as “frontiers of human knowledge,” are co-dependent in their search for meaning, despite the beliefs of some that increasing scientific knowledge disproves the existence of God.