Edward Lobb Essay: Example Outline

Thesis statement (discussed in both paragraph 1 and 2) “As a work in the tradition of utopian and dystopian literature, Huxley’s fable walks a line between the over discussion of ideas, which is normal to the utopian tradition, and the novel’s tendency towards more dramatized conflict…Brave New World is thus…a work in which form and content are artfully combined.”

1. Themes are overtly stated, but there has been confusion about the themes
   1. This was caused by Huxley himself
   2. He said that the theme of Brave New World is not the advancement of science as such; it is the advancement of science as it affects human individuals
   3. His specifying of the theme however has led to a narrow interpretation of it being a cautionary reply to H.G. Well’s utopia of benevolent scientists
   4. This interpretation is overt and requires little comment
2. Huxley was an intellectual and an artist and so his novels are not merely vehicles for debate. Its larger theme is the political and metaphysical dimensions of freedom, and he uses, and parodies, literary forms and particular works and reflects in its own form the problems of free action in the world it depicts.
   1. Uses the literary forms of Northrop Frye’s outline of the four mythoi
      1. Literature is a large circle which is divided in half horizontally
         1. The top half of the natural cycle is the world of romance and the analogy of innocence
         2. The bottom half is the world of realism and the analogy of experience (irony)
         3. Downward movement is the tragic movement (going from innocence to hamartia)
         4. Upward movement is the comic movement (going from threatening complications to happy endings)
         5. Romance and irony are immutable, like heaven and hell
         6. Human life, which occupies the middle, can be either comic or tragic
      2. Huxley uses all four mythoi
         1. Civilization presents itself as romance: idyllic, static, perfect
         2. To the reader, it is ironic: static, but terrible. Botht eh World state and the savage display different sorts of bondage
         3. Huxley parodies tragedy and comedy as well
            1. They are both social in focus, both take for granted the freedom to make choices.
            2. Tragedy is impossible in BNW and parodied

It cannot happen because they have taken away tribulations

* + - * 1. The savage could be tragic, but is also subverted—he has no enlightenment, other than of the negative and destructive kind.

What undoes the savage is not his introduction to alien values, but the vision of a society without values of any kind

Huxley’s undercutting of the tragic vision does not deny the values of Shakespeare’s world, but increase our horror at their irrelevance