Counterargument Paragraph Examples 1

Example 1:

Some would argue, however, that *Brave New World* better describes the direction we’re heading in. Considering America’s newly found obsession with genetic modification, it does seem possible that we are taking a leap towards the test-tube-grown children of *Brave New World.* However, there are for more examples of surveillance which correlate to 1984 than the genetic modification that moves towards *Brave New World.*  Thought Police patrol the streets and put any one who even thinks against the Party into custody. We have encountered problems with our freedoms of privacy via tracking devices in our cellphones and the Patriot Act limiting or security.

Example 2:

When discussing the similarities between contemporary America and the society of *Brave New World,* some will argue that Orwell’s *1984* is a more accurate prediction of the future of modern society. Proponents assert that the use of telescreens and Big Brother demonstrate a constant control by the government over the lives of citizens. They argue that the use of cellphones and the possibility of government surveillance controls the lives of citizens by making them more careful when deciding their actions. The idea that the government has the ability to monitor citizens at all times increases the likelihood of citizens being influenced by that sense of control. However, what these critics fail to recognize is that many Americans are either unaware, or indifferent to the idea of government surveillance. IT is in no way proportionate to the scale seen in *1984*, though the governmental control executed in *Brave New World* is much more accurate in reference to present-day society. In the novel, the government enforces ideas through hypnopaedia, or sleep teaching. It is a form of subliminal reinforcement where phrases such as “the more stitches the less riches,” and “ending is better than mending” are repeated continuously to young citizens while they are asleep (Huxley 51-2). The fact that they are unaware of the governmental control is what connects it so heavily to today’s society. Currently, companies around the globe utilize subliminal messaging as a way to control the public and encourage them to behave a certain way. A variety of tactics are used to influence citizens. For example, “when department stores play Christmas music, it is meant to put us in a gift-giving mood,” and promote the sales of their goods (Stroebe). Multiple studies have affirmed the idea that Americans unknowingly fall victim to subliminal messaging through music, movies, smells, and multiple other outlets. Although both books demonstrate governmental control, the key difference lies in the public knowledge of this control. What makes *1984* different from modern society and the society of *Brave New World*, is the fact that the citizens of *1984* are aware of the constant control to which they are constantly subjected. In modern day society, and the one depicted by Huxley, the majority of people are ignorant, or indifferent, to the fact that they are being influenced and controlled daily.

Example 3:

Some may argue that *Brave New World,* with its caste system, is the better prediction for modern society. Caste system in the modern society today is happening and people in the upper class have better jobs and a higher education. They have the money to provide for themselves and their families. According to the American Thinker article, “Nation states have established societies made up of at least three casts. At the bottom, economically and politically speaking, there is the lowest class…the largest class that we would today call the middle class, is the class that contains the most persons and performs most of the work in the economy…the highest class is always the class of political elites”(Bargo). However, in *Brave New World,* the people of the society are being genetically modified and in the modern society that doesn’t happen. They also look down on the people that are low on the caste system and don’t talk to them as much. People in modern society that are in the upper class do things that regular people do, like send their children to public schools rather than sending them to private schools. Just as people in modern society are constantly following the caste system, so are the people in *1984.* For example, the proles are looked down at, because they are poor and dumb. AS Winston is reading Goldstein’s book, he comes across the caste system, “At the apex of the pyramid comes Big Brother. Big Brother is infallible and all-powerful…below Big Brother comes the Inner Party…below the Inner Party comes the Outer Party…below that comes the dumb masses whom we habitually refer to as the ‘proles’” (Orwell 208). *1984* relates more to the modern society because of the caste system. They both have a similar concept of caste system and portray one another. The “civilized” world of *1984* has a caste system that is very similar to the modern society because they work together. They also don’t look down upon one another in both societies. Any member of modern society would agree with the fact that caste system is used in both the modern society and the “civilized” world. *1984* is more like the modern society because the modern society is not genetically modified.

Which example is the best? Why?

What are the weaknesses in the other examples?

Counterargument Paragraph Examples 3

Example 1:

Many people who have read both George Orwell and Aldous Huxley’s work argue that modern society is headed towards that of *Brave New World* due to the rising avocation for the legalization and decriminalization of drugs. In this book, the government gives out rations of *soma*, a “perfect drug” that has no negative side effects or risk for dependency and addiction. This keeps the population of the World State in a content mood all the time which causes there to be no revolts against the leaders. However, American society is not headed in this direction, contrary to mainstream thought. One of the main arguments for legalizing drugs, especially marijuana, is for recreation and that it would reduce stress in the general population. Some think that this is the reason our society is headed toward the World State: because of the correlation of recreational drug use. Those who argue this fail to recognize that there are many other reasons that drug use occurs. Just because it becomes decriminalized doesn’t mean that there won’t still be dealers bootlegging or selling to minors. In addition, “victims [of human trafficking] may develop substance abuse problems or addictions from being coerced through drug use by their traffickers” (Deshpande). Prostitutes are often forced to take drugs and develop an addiction so that they are dependent on their boss. Since this bootlegging and purposefully taking advantage of the dependency of these substances, the United States will never achieve the perfection found in *Brave New World.*

Example 2:

When discussing the similarities between contemporary America and the society of *Brave New World,* some will argue that Orwell’s *1984* is a more accurate prediction of the future of modern society. Proponents assert that the use of telescreens and Big Brother demonstrate a constant control by the government over the lives of citizens. They argue that the use of cellphones and the possibility of government surveillance controls the lives of citizens by making them more careful when deciding their actions. The idea that the government has the ability to monitor citizens at all times increases the likelihood of citizens being influenced by that sense of control. However, what these critics fail to recognize is that many Americans are either unaware, or indifferent to the idea of government surveillance. IT is in no way proportionate to the scale seen in *1984*, though the governmental control executed in *Brave New World* is much more accurate in reference to present-day society. In the novel, the government enforces ideas through hypnopaedia, or sleep teaching. It is a form of subliminal reinforcement where phrases such as “the more stitches the less riches,” and “ending is better than mending” are repeated continuously to young citizens while they are asleep (Huxley 51-2). The fact that they are unaware of the governmental control is what connects it so heavily to today’s society. Currently, companies around the globe utilize subliminal messaging as a way to control the public and encourage them to behave a certain way. A variety of tactics are used to influence citizens. For example, “when department stores play Christmas music, it is meant to put us in a gift-giving mood,” and promote the sales of their goods (Stroebe). Multiple studies have affirmed the idea that Americans unknowingly fall victim to subliminal messaging through music, movies, smells, and multiple other outlets. Although both books demonstrate governmental control, the key difference lies in the public knowledge of this control. What makes *1984* different from modern society and the society of *Brave New World*, is the fact that the citizens of *1984* are aware of the constant control to which they are constantly subjected. In modern day society, and the one depicted by Huxley, the majority of people are ignorant, or indifferent, to the fact that they are being influenced and controlled daily.

Example 3:

Some would say that Orwell’s dystopian world is closer to what we have today referencing things like the Patriot Act and the National Security Agency having access to all of our personal and private information. Edward Snowden, former NSA whistleblower is even being exiled from the country because “the damage to national security, they say, was so extensive that he should not be granted a pardon” (*New York Times).* This is kind of true but a big component of keeping society the same was blocking the flow of information and in America you can go to a public library and read about almost every subject in the world with the internet so instead of not learning and just doing what we are stuck with we are constantly advancing society.

Example 4:

Although there are many similarities to prove a close comparison between George Orwell’s masterpiece and modern America, some would argue Aldous Huxley’s *Brave New World* shares a far amount more. Others believe that the conception of drugs has more relevance to modern society’s use of drugs for the same reason the citizens of the World State use drugs: to escape reality and their problems. Especially regarding teenagers “in today’s society, legal drugs are mainly used to calm down, like cigarettes, or just by habit” (Webmaster). This poses as a much more realistic way of controlling the masses, while the people are completely oblivious to the corruption in their government. However, the use of such drugs like marijuana, LSD, and hallucinogenic drugs in today’s society are mostly outlawed and can have reckless side effects, unlike *soma* in *Brave New World.* Also, *1984* does a better job explaining how concepts such as surveillance and double think are better examples of overall governmental corruption than *Brave New World’s* government enforcing the use of soma to control their citizens. Our society would be less aware of the subtle concepts represented in *1984* than that of *Brave New World* because of this.

Which example is the best? Why?

What are the weaknesses in the other examples?