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Hunger Games Essay

Living a life planned out by someone is no life at all; having a set norm is having a life of complacency. That is how all of Panem is, living their life under President Snow's direction with no motivation to change with the fear of the hunger games looming overhead. The Hunger Games, a contest put on by the capital to make all 12 districts contribute two tributes to fight to the death until one winner is left, makes sure the districts stay in line. The upper-class districts love the games, while the lower class cower under the fear, but it is Katniss Everdeen who defies them all and breaks the games' norms.

The upper-class districts like the capital and district two (the jewels district) love the games because they love the drama, the lifestyle, and the idea that they already know who the candidates will be because that makes a career out of it. The city folks with their love of fancy outfits, flare, preambles, hatred, gore, and even love. All put on by the game makers and President Snow, people disgusting people that created extreme dystopia separating the rich in the capital slowly declining until you reach the poverty in district 12. With poverty differences, it also creates different cultural and political views. As Katniss observed when getting to the capitol, "They do surgery in the Capitol, to make people appear younger and thinner. In District 12, looking old is something of an achievement since so many people die early. You see an elderly person, you want to congratulate them on their longevity, ask the secret of survival. A plump person is envied because they aren't scraping by like the majority of us. But [in the Capitol] it is

different”(124). This appearance difference makes a disconnect between these people; the people of the capital observe them as not caring old or fat people while the people of district 12 see them as snoops that have too much money and time on their hands.

While it is evident that the joy that the capital finds in the hunger games contributes to its continuation, but also the complacency of the lower-class districts keeps the games going. They hate the games but they also know the punishment for not going into the games, their example is district 13, complete annihilation. “Then came the Dark Days, the uprising of the districts against the Capitol. Twelve were defeated, the thirteenth obliterated.” as Katniss states it. But while they constantly live in fear with no political way to get out they stay in fear not even trying to get out of poverty through the hunger games and gaining power that way. Even “Katniss, the girl who was on fire”, has said it, did not want to head to head with the Capitol.

Katniss Everdeen from her stern glaring demeanor to her crowd pleasing acts, wins the audience over, but it is her unexpected candid acts that irritates the President and Game Maker. This is a constant through out the story and each act alone may not mean much but together they mean everything; she volunteered for her sister, a unheard of act in the lower-class districts; Shoot an arrow towards the Gamemakers, striking an apple in the mouth of a pig; decorating the body of Rue, a fellow tribute; and almost killing Peeta and her at the same time so there would be no winner. As the story progresses going from volunteering to almost killing herself each act becomes more apparent of her slash at the President. As Katniss decorates Rue's body she remembers what Peeta said on the rooftop “ I keep wishing I could think of a way to . . . to show

the Capital they don't own me. That I'm more than just a piece in their Games"(236). This could not explain her actions any better than to keep her identity while showing the Capitol that she is "more than just a piece in their Games".

While Katniss break the norm of both her home district and changing the minds of the rich class she takes slight steps at the capitol, of course she is protected by Peeta's "star crossed lovers" idea. She however is still taking big risk against a society that she does not believe is right, but how should her actions inspire us to look our society. No longer critical living in fear but standing up for what we believe.