

Q2: *Anthem* Essay Project

Select one of the following topics:

1. In *Anthem*, Ayn Rand does not indicate the race of any of the characters, nor does she suggest that racial prejudice is present in the story. But are there other forms of prejudice in the society of *Anthem*? If so, against what or whom are they directed and why? In what ways are these forms of prejudice similar to or different from racial prejudice?
2. Do you think that Equality 7-2521 is selfish? In your answer, give examples from the story that support your answer. In what ways is Equality's approach to life and to the other characters in the story similar to or different from what we normally think of as "selfish"? What lessons do you draw from the story about what it means to pursue your own interests?
3. Do you find Liberty 5-3000 to be an admirable character? In your answer, give examples from the story about her actions, attitude, or character that lead you to answer as you do. In what ways is Liberty similar to or different from other women whom we are taught to admire?

RULES AND CRITERIA

- Essays must be 600-1200 words in length and written in English only.
- Essays must be solely the work of the entrant. Plagiarism will result in disqualification.
- Essays will be judged on whether the student is able to argue for and justify his or her view—not on whether the Institute agrees with the view the student expresses. Judges will look for writing that is clear, articulate and logically organized. Winning essays must demonstrate an outstanding grasp of the philosophical meaning of *Anthem*.

Top Prize: \$2,000; Second Prizes (3): \$500; Third Prizes (5): \$100; Finalist Prizes (25): \$50; Semi-finalist Prizes (50): \$25