

Write a PEEZL explaining why you think The Hunger Games is a good example of dystopian fiction:

Collins plays well with the convention of real-time fears in her display of control, using the common dystopian theme of a totalitarian government. [A nice point](#)

This is evident when Katniss tells the reader that she 'learned to hold my tongue and to turn my features into an indifferent mask so that no one could ever read my thoughts.'

[how does this evidence relate to a fear of control? Don't forget to explain](#)

Through this extract, we can see the control the Capitol has over the districts. By controlling the district's voice, they hope to control their thoughts by punishing any treasonous words spoken about the Capitol. This use of word control has also been used in other dystopian novels; an example of this is the novel 1984, where the suppressive government is constantly watching and controlling their people. They do this by denying freedom of speech, such as banning certain words or phrases. Without freedom of speech, they lose their individuality and ability to express their thoughts, creating a blank canvas for the government to paint over with their ideologies.

[great link to literary context](#)

The use of the adjective 'learned' tells the reader that this behaviour is not natural but rather has been taught to Katniss by people that surround her; she takes on this metaphorical mask to protect herself and her family. The district people are being controlled and punished with every minor misstep, such as calling out the government, not watching the Hunger Games, or leaving the district. To protect themselves against the heartless control of the Capitol, they have conformed to its demands. They 'close their shutters' on the problems, [symbolically](#) ignoring the control the government has and accepting their gruelling lives. Even Katniss, the protagonist of the story, starts out obeying the Capitol. Thus, creating the idea that the control the Capitol has over the districts is unnatural. [lovely idea!](#)

[good zoom](#)

This idea can also be backed up by the use of the adjective 'indifferent'. Collins uses it to describe the metaphorical mask that Katniss uses in spaces in which she could be seen or reported. This display of 'indifference' is unnatural, as humans have an almost constant stream of emotions, and by forcing themselves to appear uncaring, to avoid punishment or death, towards the horrors inflicted by the Capitol, we see their ultimate control.

[but sometimes we are indifferent... think about how you know this is false for a better zoom for this argument](#)

Collins plays on contemporary fears of a controlling government in this way. In the real world, we see multiple generations fighting together for a government to lead them into a better, more prosperous, and healthier country. But, with people like Starmer in charge of the Labour Party in the UK, there is currently concern that no matter how the vote goes, we will still get a government that is more invested in themselves and money than in the people they claim to serve.

[Interesting modern contextual link. Does this effect how a modern reader might interpret the text or respond to it? Were there similar political concerns influencing Collins as she wrote?](#)