**English 8: Language and Literature, Film Study**

**The Truman Show Study Questions**

The film can be reviewed in four stages: 1) Opening credits 2) Truman unaware

3) Truman becoming aware 4) Truman breaking free.

**Truman Unaware**

The viewer begins to be aware that Truman does not know he is being spied on and is the main character of a voyeuristic television program that is viewed around the world.

1. What are the clues given to Truman and the audience that his reality is contrived? Provide 5 clues.
2. How is conflict introduced?

**Truman Becoming Aware**

Once Truman takes the magnifying glass when the characters are viewing old photographs, it is

possible to recognize a shift in Truman’s perspective of his world. He begins to look for

himself and use his own eyes.

1. What does Truman do to manipulate his fake world in order to discover his real situation?
2. What does the name Truman Burbank represent?
3. List the literal and metaphorical ways Truman is trapped?
4. Are we trapped or confined in any way? Explain
5. When is the moment that Truman decides to break free from his contrived reality? How does he begin to break out of his world?
6. What are we learning about Truman’s viewing audience? Who is watching him and why are they watching him so faithfully?
7. To what extent is our world manipulated as Truman’s is?
8. Why does Truman initially not try to escape?

**Truman Breaking Free**

a. There have been many contrived and real obstacles that have prevented Truman from escaping. What are these obstacles?

b. The rising action brings us to Truman confronting his “Creator.” Describe this power struggle between Truman and Christoff.

c. What images and symbols of freedom, confinement and new beginnings can you find?

Truman hits the wall of his known world. Why is this a powerful ending to the story? Describe the symbolic elements of this ending and Truman’s decision to bow like an actor at the end of his performance and exit to the dark back stage of the real world.

1. Why does Truman’s audience cheer?