WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT

The third written assignment is based on some of the guiding questions for the Truman Show movie. Students should respond with grammatical paragraphs. No final overarching prose essay is required.

1. Truman is “on the air, unaware.” Is ignorance bliss?

   • Provide two real-life examples where ignorance is bliss in a positive sense.

   • Provide two real-life examples where ignorance is not bliss

   • With reference to your four chosen examples what is your overall perspective on the phrase “ignorance is bliss” as it applies to real human beings going about their lives.
2. Are there legitimate parallels between Truman’s imprisonment in the Seahaven dome and the denizens of Plato’s cave?

- Describe two aspects of Truman’s life in the Seahaven dome that are analogous to the lives of the captives in Plato’s cave.

- Describe two aspects of Truman’s life in the Seahaven dome that differentiate him from the captives in Plato’s cave.

- With reference to your four chosen examples, evaluate to what extent the Truman Show is a successful contemporary adaptation of the Allegory of the Cave.
3. How is Truman eventually able to recognize his predicament? What does this say about human fallibility and capability?

- Provide two specific examples from Truman’s life in the Seahaven dome that reflect his ignorance and fallibility.

- Provide two specific examples from Truman’s life in the Seahaven dome that reflect his intelligence and capability.

- Truman is a fictional character. If he is the map, real human beings are the territory. How useful is “the Truman map” (for gaining insights about real humans going about their lives)? Refer to your four chosen examples as you formulate your synthesis.