

## ***The Truman Show vs. "The Truman Show" – Topics for Socratic Seminar***

Explain how the following groups hold power over "The Truman Show." How do they get that power? What are the separate motives of these separate groups?

POWER

MOTIVES

The Audience:

Advertisers:

Producers:

Actors:

What does the term "reality" signify to each group.

The audience:

The makers:

Truman Burbank:

You:

Discuss how the names below contribute to our understanding of the film:

Seahaven

Truman

Christof

Santa Maria (the yacht in the film)

What other symbolism do you notice in the movie?

What camera techniques are used in the scenes depicting Truman? Are there any unusual camera angles you can spot? Give some examples and discuss how they contribute to the audiences' understanding of the story and Truman.

What camera techniques are used in the scenes depicting Christof? Give some examples and discuss how they contribute to the audiences' understanding of the story and Christof.

What does Christof's lunar control room represent in the film?

Discuss the following quote by relating it to Truman:

*Television, with insatiable hunger for material, has made celebrities into content.*  
Roger Ebert, 1998, Chicago Sun-Times.

In the film Christof says "We accept the reality which we are presented." To what extent do you agree with Christof?

Is it ever good to be ignorant?

Should Truman enter the real world? Pros and Cons

Christoff was right/wrong to stop Truman from entering the real world.

What is the future for Truman?

How does this story relate to the American Dream?

What are the major themes of the film?

Why do you think reality shows have such an appeal to television audiences?