

## **Samples showing Ben's progression from supported to independent essay writing.**

- Despite having great ideas in class and putting a lot of effort in, Ben typically got high Achieved. He needed help using specific evidence, developing ideas and making the real world/thematic discussion relevant and personal.
- These examples from different stages of writing clearly show his progression in skill and confidence.
- His completely independent paragraph is in red at the end of the pdf.

### **Stage 1: Closely-supported paragraphs (sentence starters and close procedure phrasing with class-chosen quote)**

Roth uses the character of Triss to allow the audience to consider the reality young people face when making a decision. Young people are often ignored by parents because parents don't think to consider the difficulty of making a decision as a young person. They put huge amounts of pressure on young people to be independent and to be sure of your decisions because that's how they are used to living, adults are used to having to make big decisions and they are used to having to be independent, so often they don't stop to consider how young people haven't experienced the real world and haven't developed independence yet. They make an unfair comparison between the reality of their lives, and the reality of young people's lives because they don't understand how it would feel to be someone who is unsure of themselves and is unsure of how to be independent because they have forgotten what it is like to be youthful and what it is like to have to be independent.

Roth repeats the same phrase three times using "anaphora" in "i will decide" to emphasise the importance and independence of the decision and how this decision is determined by her, anything she does or decides is her fault because nobody else is allowed to influence her decision, providing enormous pressure on her. The repetition of the first pronoun "i" re-enforces the independence and isolation she feels because it is directed at her, this decision is hers and she has the responsibility to determine the rest of her life, she feels anxious because it is an unrealistic expectation and pressure to put on a young person. Roth also uses imperative language "I will" to show Triss has a hidden resilience and strength because imperative language is demanding and decisive which is not a trait abnegation shows because they believe in being selfless and doing everything for others.

### **Stage 2: Becoming more confident – convincing 'fill in the blanks' work**

In contrast to this, Triss is shown to be conflicted by the guilt she feels by leaving her parents through "antithesis" in "i will decide to stay with my family or abandon them" Abandonment implies being the more healthy, better off person who can provide for themselves and leaving behind the person who can't provide for themselves for ever/ This is ironic because

abandonment is something that doesn't happen much with younger people, it is normally the adults leaving the young people. This guilt that Triss feels makes it clear that she sees herself as cold and selfish because she would be going against what her faction stands for and chooses her own life over her family's well being. The decision between abandonment and staying shows the two different personalities of Triss, the abnegation side and the ever more evident side of dauntless. Through this, Roth allows the readers to consider how young people can find it difficult to decide on a life changing choice because each choice had different effects, and to choose one thing would lead to new life with possibly undesired aspects that could change your entire life. This antithesis that young people feel is difficult to cope with because of their mixed feelings and emotions over the two or more large scale outcomes, choosing between two entirely different life styles puts tremendous pressure on everyone, but young people especially because of their lack of experience in this field.

**Stage 3: Gaining confidence in analysis and personal response (supported only by brief group discussion before writing each part of the paragraph, class sentence starters and class-chosen quote)**

Roth uses a simile to show how Triss feels nervous, anxious, and mentally deranged when she is waiting at the test to decide what the rest of her life will be like. For instance "I feel like there is a bubble in my chest...threatening to break me apart from the inside". This means that she feels anxious about making this decision by herself because it will determine if she will be content and happy with the rest of her life, or left with a mistake that will make her feel full of regret and sadness. (analysis). The "bubble" symbolises the growing pressure and buildup of complicated emotions that confuses her, and the "break me apart from the inside" shows how these conflicting feelings are growing and expanding too fast for her to grasp and cope with, so she fears that these feelings may affect her clarity of thought when deciding what is best for the rest of her life. A bubble is something that is beautiful, but fragile, meaning that these thoughts and decisions are beautiful and show independence and analysis of emotions, but they are fragile and can cause grief and internal pain if the wrong decision is made, and the emotions pop. Through Triss' feelings, Veronica Roth is showing us how young people can find it hard to cope with conflicting and growing emotions in life when making important decisions, because they feel as if they are forced by society to make a mature and well thought out decision that will earn them acceptance into society, when in reality they are still young and fragile, and have to develop maturity and clarity of thought before making drastic decisions, rather being forced to be independent and expected to live up to the mature ways of adults.

Divergence is dangerous because it is a personality of superiority, that thinks abstract thoughts and doesn't fit into the confined way of factioned society. Roth uses the method of alliteration to show how different Triss is. (evidence) For instance, when Triss' test shows that she does not fit into just one faction, she is told not to tell anyone because "divergence is extremely dangerous". (translate) This means that Divergence is dangerous because it is a personality of superiority, that thinks abstract thoughts and doesn't fit into the confined way of factioned society. (explain) Roth uses the alliteration to make a link between the complex personality of divergence, and the dangerous paths of life it can associate with, which shows how much divergence is seen as dangerous because it is a personality that doesn't fit into this predetermined and factory set way of society that is factions, where people are put into categories where they can't be unique and

different. Therefore, Roth shows the readers the idea that being different is seen as unwanted in society because they are afraid of the unknown, afraid of interesting and different people that offer new and unvisited ideas to the world, they prefer to have a society so predictable, so confined to one set personalities that everyone can be identified and can be put into a category of importance or uselessness, interesting or boring, when actually, difference is good because it gives society the opportunity to change and thrive, and become diverse and interesting. This is a powerful moment which is relevant because there are many people who are seen as outsiders and dangerous because of their differences, and as a society, we need to embrace these new personalities to grow and thrive as a society, and develop variety and diversity because these are the things that allow change of thought and new ideas.

### **Nearly independent writing (supported only through sentence starters and pre-chosen quote)**

(point) Roth uses the method of varying sentence lengths to show how Triss changes. (evidence) For example, when she is deciding whether to stay in Abnegation at the Choosing Ceremony, Roth writes “I watch myself growing into a woman...”. (explain) The long sentence makes it sound like she has run this idea and possible life outcome many times in her head, and she knows exactly how she be like if she stays in abnegation. This means that she knows this life will be predictable, and there is no room in an abnegation life for surprises. This is made clearer by the use of the 1st person pronouns “I/myself” which emphasises how she feels lonely about what her future life will be like because she has already discovered those feelings, and she can compare her life now to her life after the test, making her realise that nothing will change, no new excitements and surprises, she can predict the happiness of her life if she stays because she already knows what it is like to be an abnegation. (contrast evidence) However, when Triss has chosen Dauntless, Roth makes her sound much more assertive because of the short sentences she uses like “I am proud” and “I don’t think, I just bend my knees and jump”. (explain) This shows how she has changed, becoming decisive because she is pushing her feelings away, locking them up in the bottom of her soul to reveal the mean, robot operated side of triss where she can explore new ways of life because her feelings aren’t there to interfere with her excitement, and confuse her emotions. (analysis123) (1) Therefore, Roth shows the reader how people don’t have to live predictable lives because nobody is made with one set of feelings, everybody can change and develop new interests and views on life. (3) This is relevant to young people today because there is a lot of pressure on young people from parents and media and the rest of society to grow up to be someone acceptable, and to conform to the preset ways where you have to fit into a category.

### **Wholly Independent paragraph writing (Ben had to apply the paragraph frame himself and choose suitable sentence starters. All writing and quote choice is his own and written under controlled conditions)**

Roth uses different techniques in "I feel like someone breathed new air into my lungs. I am not abnegation. I am not dauntless. I am divergent. And i can't be controlled." to show that she has changed. For example, Roth uses short sentences in "i am not abnegation. i am not dauntless. I am divergent." to show how Tris has changed. This means that she has discovered herself, she knows who she is and she has accepted that she can't let people decide her personality because it is her life and she controls her destiny. Through the short sentences Tris is portrayed as decisive and assertive, as short demanding phrases show how she has changed from conforming to their set ways of faction life to determining her own faith and taking her life into her own hands because she realised how boring and predetermined factions can make a person. In addition to this, Roth uses the technique of first pronouns in "I am not abnegation. I am not dauntless. I am divergent." to show that Tris is her own person. This shows how "I" is unique to one person, and is a situation focused on the emotions and feelings and decisions made by one person alone, free from the influences of others. This means that Tris' decisions are not up to anyone but her because she wants her life to be free and far from the predetermined life of factions so she can be herself. She has changed from the quiet version of triss made to conform to society and follow the rules, to this new triss of independence and uniqueness, where she is not willing to share her life, it is hers and she is her own person, free to stand out from the normal, and free to have her own personality. This shows how society is not an excuse to follow the normal ways of life and the normal interests. Society's barrier between living your life and a life that conforms and fits into a defined category should be broken because everyone is different, and everyone deserves to be themselves. People should not listen to what society thinks, what society says is "normal", and what society says is acceptable, because your life is individual to you, your life is unique and should be free from the pressuring influences and the judging stereotypes of society today that prevents a nation from individuality, from diversity, and change. Therefore the writer is forcing the reader to consider how maybe they have been living a life that has been shaped and pressured to conform with society because they are scared of being isolated, and they are scared of the tremendous possibilities available to those who reach out, and explore a life beyond societies crippling views and influences. This is relevant to New Zealanders today because even in your hometown, society can influence your decisions and make you conform to the acceptable personalities that people see as normal. Even in a life today society still tries to snatch your individuality and replace with a factory set categorized version of yourself who is seen as acceptable because they are scared of the new, and scared of change that brings new values and new ideas to the world.

