

Name _____

Honors English 12

Period 8

Date: _____

The Stranger by Albert Camus

Please Do Now:

1. Should there be a definition of social responsibility?

2. What price may society have to pay for nonconformity?

3. React to each of the following claims of existentialism:
 - a. We are alone. Every person lives in his or her own world of meaning and understanding, and we never really experience the same world as anyone else. Also, the universe is unfeeling and indifferent to our individual plights as humans. The only authentic reality is in the mind of the individual; it is not shared, and each of us is essentially alone.

 - b. Existence is essentially absurd. There is no concrete purpose of the human condition. There are no absolute truths and no guides for how one should think, act, or live.

 - c. We are free and responsible for our lives. Because there are no absolute truths, there is no limit to what we can do. There is nothing controlling us, so the responsibility for deciding how to live falls entirely upon the individual. We must look within ourselves and choose how to live. This means refusing to blindly accept the path others have laid out for us and instead choosing our own path.

 - d. There is no inherent meaning in any aspect of existence. Part of being responsible for our lives means creating meaning for ourselves. We are given nothing but existence and we must assign meaning to things and decide what is valuable on an individual basis.

After listening to the songs from class:

1. Discuss the ideas of the individual finding his/her own meaning in life versus conforming to the ideas of society.
2. What are the advantages and disadvantages of conforming to society?
3. Find lyrics from each song that directly connect to Camus' ideas in *The Stranger*.

YOUR TURN: Find past or contemporary events and/or examples from popular media that addresses the ideas of social responsibility and conformity vs. nonconformity. Use questions above and the ideas on the front to form your response.