Trials
Ms. Shen

Name: _____ Points: _____/10

Pleasantville Discussion Questions

Directions: Please answer the following questions in complete sentences. Be sure to use evidence from the film to support your answers.

1. What cosmetic details (dress, furniture and other props) did you notice about life in 1950s Pleasantville? (Consider what Mary Sue/Jennifer noticed after she was transported back in time.)

2. What evidence was presented in the movie to indicate the role that men and women were expected to play both socially and economically in the 1950s?

3. What sorts of things were parents worried about concerning what they perceived as teenage life and temptations?

4. What evidence did you see of 1950s conformity? (Be sure to consider both material evidence as well as the values exhibited by the characters.)

5. What behavior led people to change from black and white to Technicolor? Was it merely sexual activity that precipitated the change?

6. How did the town react to the changes they saw around them? (Be sure to use evidence from the film to support your answer.)

7. Why was the unfamiliar threatening to some people in Pleasantville?

8. Is the film *Pleasantville* an accurate portrayal of life in 1950s America? If yes, why? If no, what about it differs from the reality of the 1950s?