UA Rich Mountain
Assessing Student Learning
Course Outcomes Report
Colby Singleton
Spring 2024

1. **Purpose**
   The Course Outcomes Report supplies information each semester regarding student learning on the course level. This report must be submitted to your division chair by the last day of the semester. Data from this report will be integrated into the annual Program Review. The Strategic Goals aligned with this report are Strategic Goal Three: Provide High Quality Education and Strategic Goal Four: Continuous Quality Improvement.

2. **Course Details**
   Course Name: Comp II Course #: ENG102-AC01

3. **Assessed Outcome**
   Course Outcome: Write a clearly expressed, grammatically correct analytical literary essay following the standard five-paragraph essay structure in MLA format.

   Related Program Outcome: Students will increase competencies in writing, reading, speaking, and listening.

   Related GELO category (choose one):
   - ☐ Thinking critically
   - ☒ Communicating effectively
   - ☐ Using technology
   - ☐ Conducting relevant research

4. **Evidence of Student Learning**
   Describe the classroom activity/tools related to the **course** objective (project, discussion, essay, quiz, etc.): Students composed a literary analysis essay comparing themes in multiple Ray Bradbury stories as part of our science fiction unit.

5. **Course Data**
   Number of students in your course(s) who met the course objective: 10

   Total number of students in your course section(s): 12

   Percent (%) of students achieving this course objective: 83%

6. **Response to Data**
   Will you change how you teach as a result of this assessment?

☒Change(s) needed. I am not the best at communicating my meaning online. I need to record new lecture videos and make things more interactive to make sure that my students are actually completing the lesson before trying to write their essays.

☐No change(s) needed. *Type explanation here.*

***Attach <u>anonymous</u> student samples of each activity along with the grading rubric/scale.**
****Attach any meeting minutes associated with this assessment.**

"Zero Hour" & "There Will Come Soft Rains": Theme Comparison

Ray Bradbury explores the themes of the danger of technology, humanity, and the consequences of both in his works. In two of his short stories, "Zero Hour" and "There Will Come Soft Rains," Bradbury presents dystopian visions of the future, each highlighting different aspects of human nature and society. These two stories show similar themes of blind trust, the consequences of human hubris, and isolation.

To begin with, in "Zero Hour", Bradbury portrays a world from Mrs. Morris's point of view, where children are playing a game called "Invasion". They would spend the entirety of the day playing while the parents would work and occasionally watch over their children. Mrs. Morris doesn't entirely understand the extravagance of the game, but she allows her daughter to play it, as do the other neighbors with their children. In this world, it is also described as "lined with good green and peaceful trees" and "based upon a stable ground" (Bradbury 2). These details show how Mrs. Morris would think no conflict could happen in a beautiful world. Despite that, her blind trust in not only her children, but the world, results in an invasion of aliens with the help of their children. Conversely, "There Will Come Soft Rains" portrays a house that is fully reliant on technology. The house is automated to perform everyday functions such as telling the time, cooking meals, cleaning the house, etc. Despite the ongoing casualties that are occurring outside the house, Mrs. McClellan proceeds with her life as if she feels safe and protected in her reliant home. However, this aberrated into a severe house fire. The technology of the house did its best to get rid of the fire, "But the fire was clever. It had sent flame outside the house, up through the attic to the pumps there. An explosion! The attic brain which directed the pumps was shattered into bronze shrapnel on the beams" (Bradbury 4). This highlights how Mrs. McClellan's blind trust in her fully automated house can't always perform its duties successfully. Through both of these narratives, Bradbury warns against the dangers of blind trust, which can lead to betrayal and destruction.

In addition, Bradbury explores the consequences of human hubris. In "Zero Hour", despite the children's collaboration with the aliens, the ending reveals that the game, "Invasion", was orchestrated by the aliens to invade Earth. This unexpected event highlights the folly of human hubris in believing they could "run the world" (Bradbury 4). Consequently, this leads to the children making poor decisions and losing their innocence. Similarly, "There Will Come Soft Rains" shows how Mrs. McClellan fully relies on her automated house to perform its duties successfully. When a house fire occurs, that exposes that the house is not fully reliable and unsuccessfully saves the house. This event also highlights the folly of human hubris in believing the machinery wouldn't have any kinks and would be completely reliable. Ultimately, the effects of human hubris resulted in a downfall in these two short stories. This essentially proves that one can overestimate one's knowledge and abilities.

Lastly, in both "Zero Hour" and "There Will Come Soft Rains", Bradbury explores themes of isolation. In "Zero Hour", the children's complicity with the aliens leads to their isolation from their parents. The statement, "'Hurry, Mom! This is a matter of life and death!" shows Mink's urge to rush back to playing "Invasion" (Bradbury 2). Mrs. Morris remained oblivious to the impending danger until it was too late. When Mink and the other children are left alone to play, not only does this cause a conflict at the end of the story, but it causes the parents

to feel helpless. Similarly, “There Will Come Soft Rains” portrays a world where a war is happening and the only standing structure is an automated house. The statement, “The house stood alone in a city of rubble and ashes”, expresses the feeling of loneliness and isolation (Bradbury 1). Even with the war going on, Mrs. McClellan continues to stay isolated in her house and do her everyday routine. However, when a house fire occurs, Mrs. McClellan is left feeling helpless while her house’s machinery cannot save her. All of this shows that the themes of isolation can result in a state of feeling helpless from the conflicts Mrs. Morris and Mrs. McClellan face.

In conclusion, "Zero Hour" and "There Will Come Soft Rains," present dystopian visions of the future, each highlighting different aspects of human nature and society. These two stories show similar themes of blind trust, the consequences of human hubris, and isolation. By comparing these themes, one can gain a deeper understanding of Bradbury's concerns about the trajectory of society and the human condition.

Works Cited

Bradbury, R. “There Will Come Soft Rains.” (1950, May 6).https://www.btboces.org/Downloads/7_There%20Will%20Come%20Soft%20Rains%20by%20Ray%20Bradbury.pdf

Bradbury, R. “Zero Hour.” (1947).https://americanliterature.com/author/ray-bradbury/short-story/zero-hour