Name _____

The Truman Show

Characters: Truman Burbank, Meryl (his wife), Marlon (his best friend), Cristof (the director)

1. What are some things that happen that lets Truman know something is "off" in his world and makes him question his perception of it?

2. When interviewed, Marlon states "Nothing on this show is fake; it is merely controlled." Do you agree or disagree with his statement? Why?

3. Does Truman still have a "private self" when he is constantly surrounded by cameras? Why or why not?

4. How do the creators of Truman's world shape his perception of ever leaving his home on the island?   Give some examples.

5. Describe Meryl's "professional" behavior on the show that does not seem to be very natural. Hint: She is usually holding something.

6. The director, Cristof, states "We accept the reality of the world with which we are presented." Do you agree or disagree with this? Do you think Cristof has been fair to Truman in creating this world for him or would he have been better off in the "real" world?

7. Why do you think the director wanted to keep Truman from being able to leave?

8. Why do you think the show was a success? Would there still be a show if Truman stayed? Why?

9. Why do you think Truman chose to leave the happy, crime free, "perfect" world for the real world?

10. Do you think Truman's self-concept is affected by the realization that his world is not real? Why or why not? (Consider how you would feel if you were in his shoes and realized that everything you knew about your life was fake.)

***Assignment after the movie:

Write a one page letter to yourself as if you would get to read it in five years. In the letter, include five things you expect yourself to accomplish in that time period. List also how you plan to accomplish these goals. Describe your life situation now, both at school and at home. Finally, include how you want to be perceived by others in five years and explain why.

Address the letter as Dear (your name) and also sign it with your signature.
Attach the letter to this paper and **turn it in by the end of class.**