

# Through Opposition and Commonality: The Role and Depiction of the Arts and Sciences in Young Adult Literature

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Young Adult Literature

Permanent Section

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"Through Opposition and Commonality: The Role and Depiction of the Arts and Sciences in Young Adult Literature"

Arts and Sciences are celebrated throughout Young Adult Literature often through posited dichotomies. Many texts, such as Ally Condie's *Matched* trilogy (2011-2013) and Dan Wells' *Partial* sequence (2013-2014), illustrate the way in which the absence of the arts deprives humanity of the very thing that makes us human. Common depictions of dystopian cityscapes and rural pastorality, as in John Green's *Looking for Alaska* (2006), indicate the danger in not only overly embracing technological advances, but also the very messages that governments and leaders encourage audiences to believe and support. In such instances, cultural participants are suggested to be cautious and thoughtful in what ideologies they embrace and act upon. Likewise, in Rainbow Rowell's realistic fictional text *Eleanor and Park* (2013), the significance of challenging often self-imposed societal and cultural binaries depicts the way in which opposing traditional hegemonic discourses and structures allows for growth and, sometimes, salvation. Across genres, such literatures are questioning and challenging notions of the impact arts and science have on local, national and global scales. In keeping with the conference theme, "Arts and Sciences," this panel seeks to explore the ways in which Young Adult Literatures question, investigate, challenge, impact and transform the function of arts and sciences. Essays that engage a wide array of mediums, including textual adaptations into video games, comic books, graphic novels, and/or film formats are encouraged. Papers addressing retellings from all time periods, not just those pertaining to contemporary adaptations, are also sought.

Topics may include but are not limited to:

Socioeconomic status and its relationship to arts and sciences

The misuse of the humanities/sciences

Freedoms offered/oppressed through the use of technology

Challenges to traditionally conscripted gendered spaces

Revisions of "powers" of the undead/supernatural

The place and role of religion and science

Explorations of sex and sexuality

Illustrations of science

Depictions of museums, art galleries and fairs

Emerging ways of exploring race through arts and sciences

Roles of arts and sciences in the Post-Modern world

The impact of the arts and sciences on the colonized/colonizer

Magic and/or the supernatural in relation to and conjunction with arts and sciences

Inquiries and/or abstracts of 250-300 words may be sent to Amberyl Malkovich at [amalkovich@concord.edu](mailto:amalkovich@concord.edu) by April 5, 2015.

**cfp categories:**

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