THE MAZE RUNNER VIDEO DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

James Dashner at NIU: Part 1

1. What are some of your favorite books? What about these books make them your favorites?
2. Despite being unable to go to college for his passion and receiving tons of rejection letters, author James Dashner did not give up on writing. Can you think of a hobby or pastime you were/are really passionate about, despite knowing that it will make you little money?
3. What about the variations in book covers stuck out to you the most? Why?
4. How do you feel about book-to-film adaptations?
5. What is your favorite book-to-film adaptation? Why?

James Dashner at NIU: Part 2

1. James Dashner faced a lot of rejection while becoming a famous writer. When is a time you have faced rejection and how did you overcome it?
2. Plot twists can be very difficult to pull off. What is the best plot twist you have ever read?
3. James Dashner talks about creative inspiration. Who is someone you look at for creative inspiration?
4. Listening to music is an important part of James Dashner's creative process. What music helps you feel creative and inspired?
5. James Dashner worked on *The Maze Runner* for years! If you had to devote at least two years of your life to some kind of creative process what would you devote the two years to? It can be anything! A band, an art collection, a novel, are just a few of many possibilities!

The Maze Runner at NIU: Cryptography

1. Cryptology expert Brian Veitch discusses a multitude of secret codes and how they were utilized. In his example he uses images of mazes stack on top of each other. If you had to make up your own secret cryptology language how would you decide what your language looks like and how it functions? Why?
2. Cryptology has been used in many famous media productions from books to films as well as out in real life! What are some examples of ciphers you've encountered?
3. Now that you know what a cipher is, what are some scenarios where a cipher may be needed? This can be fictitious or an example from your everyday life.

4. What are some of the pros and cons of using the Caesar cipher? Can you think of a better way to create a cryptologic cipher?
5. Do you think ciphers are still relevant in our modern day, technology friendly world? If not what would you suggest to take over the cipher's niche?

The Maze Runner at NIU: Psychology and Memory

1. In nature, prairie voles form bonds through physical contact. What are some ways that you form bonds with family and friends?
2. Dr. Angela Grippo explains how both the Gladers from *The Maze Runner* and common animals relieve chronic, unpredictable stress. What are some other methods for people to handle stress? Of the many stress relief methods, what do you prefer to do when you're stressed?
3. The participants did multiple memory exercises. When you have to study for a test or memorize lines for a theater production, what are some tricks you use to help you memorize?
4. After participating did you find Dr. Grippo's assumptions on what you remembered correct or incorrect? Please explain.
5. Of the many theories and memory rules Dr. Grippo covered, which do you think is the theory/rule you see happening most frequently?

The Maze Runner at NIU: The Science of Running

1. Right off the bat, before getting too far into the video, answer the question Dani poses at the beginning of the talk. You're feeling weak, do you stay home and rest or go out for a run? Why?
2. Knowing that you have a week to train for the maze, what other exercises could you do to help to prepare you for surviving the maze?
3. Running in combat boots increases your energy expenditure by 12%; however, the military still uses combat boots. Why do you think that is? Do you think there is still a benefit to wearing combat boots over tennis shoes?
4. As we learned in the video, changing direction requires more exertion of energy. What are some other actions or obstacles that could potentially slow you down or require you to exert more energy?
5. Now that you know shoes can play such a large impact on your speed, momentum, and energy exertion, what are some other characteristics that could potentially affect how long and well you are able to run? Please explain.

The Maze Runner at NIU: Anti-Grievers

1. Engineers design machines and tools to solve problems. If you were an engineer, what kind of engineer would you like to be and why?
2. It is necessary to be creative if you want to be an engineer. If you could design anything in the world, regardless of whether it is realistic or not, what would you design?
3. Good engineers take ideas from all over the world, nature, animals, Cartoon Network. If you were an engineer, where would you draw most of your inspiration?
4. If you were building an anti-griever and needed to draw inspiration from any organism in the animal kingdom, what organism would you draw inspiration from? Why?
5. What do you think would be the most effective anti-griever design? Draw it or write a short story about it on the back of this paper.

Cryptography: The Science of Secrets

1. If you could be a cryptographer or a cryptanalyst which would you choose to be? Why?
2. Do you believe the job of a cryptologist or the job of a cryptanalyst is more difficult? Why?
3. Cryptology is used almost every day by banks as well as online retailers. What are some other common ways we use cryptology?
4. Cryptologist Brian Veitch recommends taking mathematics as well as computer science for a strong foundation in cryptology. What are some other subjects you could take to help you become a great cryptologist?
5. Have you or anyone you know ever used cryptology? When and why?