After watching a movie or listening to a TEDtalk or reading a piece of literature, a poem, or any other piece of writing, fill in the chart below. When complete, file into your “Inquiry” folder OR print and keep for future reference. You teacher may ask to keep your work as an example to expand understanding in the class

**Title** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Your name:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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| **Which Essential Question(s) is addressed in this piece of literature?** | **Content:**   1. What happens in the text/movie/Talk? 2. What is the main message/theme? | **Understanding:**  How does the text answer the EQ?  *Answer in full sentences. Record relevant quotes and page numbers/lines if needed.* |
| How does society encourage passion and success? | In an attempt to create an equal society, a brutual governrment controls the people and will not let them to pursue their talents or passions but rather keeps them all the same. Someone tries to challenge this system but is shot and killed. Society cannot be equal. | This society does NOT encourage passion and success. In this story, a tyrannical government, under the “unceasing vigilance of the handicapper general” (58), controls society so that no one is smarter, stronger or more beautiful than anyone else. Everyone is equal, except the government employees themselves who wear no handicaps in order to keep strict control over the people. By handicapping the people so they are all the same, the government has eliminated competition and thereby stifled success on an individual level. The ballerinas and musicians cannot show their true talent and must conform to the rules and regulations of being “average”. Both protagonists, Hazel and George, do not question these rules and think “they should get a raise for trying so hard” (61) as opposed to celebrating ability and talent. Kurt Vonnegut Jr. is satirizing our need to be equal and to eliminate competition; however, encouraging and celebrating the talent (and thereby inequality) of its people can only encourage passion and hopefully success. This may be a threat to a government that needs complete control in order to stay in power but it allowing people to be the best they can be, and understand that we do NOT have to be equal to be successful is the answer to this question. |