Discussion Questions for Small Group Video Chat #3: “The Era” and *Gattaca*

**ENL Philosophical Questions**:

1. How do *Gattaca* and *Brave New World* illustrate the flaws in attempting to organize society into a meritocracy? How meritocratic is American life? (Politics, sports, jobs, etc.).
2. Where does the societal idea of “potential” come from? How do we try and measure it? Who do we label as high potential? Low potential? Have these traditionally been correct?
   1. What does *Gattaca* have to say about “potential”? How does the film show the damage high expectations can place on people?
   2. How and why has *Brave New World* eliminated this function?
3. How does the good compare to soma? How are the authors demonstrating these drugs are addictive?
   1. Would you trade your freedom for the kind of happiness these things drugs provide?
   2. How does the good cause Ben to become a *shoelooker*?
4. To what extent is *Gattaca’s* optimistic about the human spirit? How do “The Era” and *Brave New World* destroy this idea?
   1. “That’s how I did it Anton: I never saved anything for the swim back.”
5. How do *Gattaca* and *Friday Black:* “The Era” add to *Brave New World’s* warnigns about social hierarchies based on genetics? What differences exist in their ideas of how this will change society?

**ENL Content Questions**:

1. How has Bernard’s character developed in *BNW* in chapters 5 and 6?
2. What do you think about *Gattaca’s* ending? Was it a good movie?
   1. “For someone who was never meant for this world, I must confess I’m suddenly having a hard time leaving it. Of course, they say every atom in our bodies was once part of a star. Maybe I’m not leaving... Maybe I’m going home.”
3. What did you think about Friday Black: “The Era”?
   1. Did you find it good? Funny? Worth-while?
4. How does Adjei-Brenyah develop the cruelty of the New Federation? Why do they use language the way they do?