

Name _____



Clocked Lives

Directions: Read the short dystopian story below. Think about the author's message: what warning is being sent about technology? Write a **short response (6-8 sentences)** analyzing the story's warning and how it connects to real-world issues.

The Clock of Control

In the city of Novara, no one set their own schedules anymore. Instead, a central system called the Clock decided when citizens would wake, eat, work, and even rest. People wore glowing wristbands that vibrated with commands: *Report to Work Station. Consume Nutritional Meal. Rest Now.*

At first, the Clock was praised for bringing order and efficiency. Productivity soared, and mistakes seemed to vanish. But after a while, people noticed they no longer made choices for themselves. Friends drifted apart because their "rest times" didn't match. Families rarely ate together. No one remembered what it felt like to decide freely.

When a power outage struck for one hour, silence filled the city. Some citizens panicked, unsure what to do without orders. But others laughed, ate when they felt hungry, and even took walks together. For a brief moment, they remembered life before the Clock, and realized how much they had lost.

What warning does the author send through this story about technology's role in human lives? Support your answer with at least two pieces of evidence from the text and connect it to the real world.
