

Divergent

Background Guide

Introduction to the Committee

To those living now, the world has always been like this; it was always divided up into five factions: the selfless Abnegation, the peaceful Amity, the honest Candor, the brave Dauntless, the knowledgeable Erudite, and the dreaded Factionless. Each faction was vital to the continued progress of the society, each playing a crucial role to help nudge the society forward – that is, all except the miserable failures who ended up in the Factionless.

Now, the Factionless uprising has finally been able to overthrow the Erudite control. Tris manages to get the video Abnegation had been keeping secret for so long released, with the help of Marcus Eaton. The video calls for the aid of Divergents, describing the ‘Outside’ as being in a state of war. When Tobias learns that Tris allied herself with his father, he is enraged and the couple ends up not being on talking terms. Jeanine lives through Tori’s brutal attack, and has almost completely recovered from her injuries.

To stop further bloodshed and destruction, all the Faction leaders, the important Factionless, and some prominent citizens have decided to hold a meeting and discuss the future outcomes. Through a vote, the newly formed council has decided to have a conference mainly revolving around these issues:

- 1) Ensuring the protection of Divergents and the Factionless
- 2) Possible remake of a systematized government
- 3) Prevention of outbreaks in the city

It is to be noted, however, that Allegiant hasn’t been formed yet. Therefore, any activities caused or influenced by it are still in the future. The formation of an alliance, like Allegiant, is discouraged. Instead, delegates are encouraged to think of alternate solutions that are different than the actual story in the novel. Delegates are also encouraged to dress up according to their respective Faction (or their respective characters if the character dresses up differently). However, if a delegate chooses not to dress up, they are expected to wear a proper Western business attire.

FACTIONS

1) Abnegation:

Abnegation members are selfless and take care of others. They even wear grey robes to try and blend in with the background, diverting all possible attention away from them. Mirrors are extremely rare in their houses, since they believe mirrors only work to make people think about themselves more. Members take over the public service of the city; some are also representatives of the ruling council – where almost all of the 50 council members are from abnegation. “I choose to turn away from my reflection, to rely not on myself but on my brothers and sisters, to project always outward until I disappear.” ∞ Abnegation Manifesto



2) Amity:

Amity prioritizes happiness, and prefer to have a peaceful life without drama and conflict. Members become counselors and caretakers; Amity is also responsible for the supply of food and water. “Give freely, trusting that you will be given what you need... Do not be angry. The opinions of others cannot damage you... The wrong is past. You must let it rest where it lies... You must no longer think cruel thoughts. Cruel thoughts lead to cruel words, and hurt you as much as they hurt their target.” ∞ Amity Manifesto



3) Candor:

Those in Candor are completely honest and can usually tell when others are lying. They refuse to be nice to others, if it means saying something they don't completely mean. They often get to the point of being blunt and it doesn't seem to bother them. They believe that pleasantries are just another form of lies. Members have proven to be sound leaders in Law. “Truth makes us transparent. Truth makes us strong. Truth makes us inextricable.” ∞ Candor Manifesto



4) Dauntless:

Dauntless are very brave and protective to those who need protecting and always stand up to those who can't. Members are responsible for guarding the fence. “We



believe in ordinary acts of bravery, in the courage that drives one person to stand up for another. We believe in shouting for those who can only whisper, in defending those who cannot defend themselves.” ∞ Dauntless Manifesto

5) Erudite:

Erudite are always smart, they like science, English, history and most importantly the research for new programs and new equipment or inventions. Members are researchers (obviously!) and eloquent speakers (not so obvious...). Erudite is also responsible for the purification of the water supply for the city. “Ignorance is defined not as stupidity but as lack of knowledge. Lack of knowledge inevitably leads to lack of understanding. A lack of understanding leads to a disconnection among people with differences. Disconnection among people with differences leads to conflict. Knowledge is the only logical solution to the problem of conflict. Therefore, we propose that in order to eliminate conflict, we must eliminate the disconnection among those with differences by correcting the lack of understanding that arises from ignorance with knowledge.” ∞ Erudite Manifesto



Past Important Events

1) Aptitude Test:

The Aptitude Test is an annual examination which is given by every citizen who has reached the age of 16 – the age at which a child turns into an adult. The test is given individually in separate rooms, and the participants aren't allowed to share their result with anyone. The test is taken so seriously, that the volunteer test evaluator can't be from the same faction as the taker. Therefore, the evaluator team consists of eight Abnegation, and two other faction members. Ten tests are taken simultaneously. The test starts when the participant is strapped to some electrodes on his/her head, and given a serum to drink. This induces hallucinations, which put the child into four scenarios, each responsible for eliminating one faction – leaving the one that the now-adult can best adapt to. The result of the Aptitude test is to be strongly considered when choosing the Faction; however, the final decision is still up to the child.

2) Choosing Ceremony:

On the day after the Aptitude Test, the Choosing Ceremony takes place. As the name suggests, this is the day when every 16-year-old decides which Faction they want to belong to for the rest of their lives. The young-adult may either choose to continue living with his/her parents in their birth factions, or they may choose to start from scratch and choose a new faction. Once the decision has been made, it's nearly impossible to change your faction again. The ceremony is hosted by a different faction each year. The names of the children are called out in reverse alphabetical order; once called, the child has to come up on the stage and accept a knife offered by the host representative. On the stage there are five bowls, each with an object representing the Faction. The child cuts his/her hand with the knife, and lets the blood drip

on the bowl of the chosen Faction. Once chosen, he/she goes to stand with their new faction. After the ceremony, these new members are made to go through an initiation test, where the Faction tests their abilities. If the initiate passes all tests, he/she ends up being a full member of the chosen Faction, otherwise, they end up being Factionless.

3) Abnegation Faction Genocide:

Halfway through the first novel, Divergent, Jeanine succeeds in gaining some Dauntless leaders as allies, and administers the simulation serum to the entire Dauntless compound. Apart from the leaders (and Four and Tris), everyone is then easily controlled, simply by changing the scenarios created by the serum. The 'enslaved' members were then made to assassinate as many Abnegation members as they could, ruthlessly killing more than 90% of all the Faction. This was the first move made by Jeanine to seize control of the city. A few prominent leaders like Andrew Prior, Natalie Prior, and Marcus Eaton survived the massacre. However, both Andrew and Natalie die while try to help Tris end the control of the serum over most of the dauntless.

4) Jeanine's Control over the Government:

After the mass murder of the Abnegation, the ruling council is left in ruins. Jeanine takes this opportunity to establish control of the city. With over half of the Dauntless as willing allies, Erudite's control is almost certain. Candor and Amity show distaste for Jeanine's actions, yet they choose inaction. They do, however, willingly provide shelter and other basic necessities to the remaining few Dauntless and Abnegation who want to form a resistance against Erudite. Admittedly, they keep reminding the refugees of the dangers they are putting the faction in by their presence.

5) Rise of the Factionless:

When Jeanine's rule seems undefeatable, a new power comes on the field. Evelyn Johnson, now the leader of the Factionless, arrives and tries to ally herself with the small resistance group. She says that her goal is simply to restore the Factions again and establish order. However, apart from more manpower, she brings nothing else. Additionally, most of the prominent leaders are skeptical of her real ambition. According to them, restoring the Factions would mean a self-sentence of exile by Evelyn - something that none of them could fathom why anyone would do. Being the mother of Four, however, proved to have its advantages. Evelyn initially emotionally blackmailed Tobias, and slowly reeled him over to her side. From there, he (being one of the most respected leaders in the group) persuaded others of Evelyn's purity of heart. That, along with their desperation to stop Jeanine, convinced the resistance group leaders to accept the support of the Factionless. However, Evelyn slowly grew more and more influential, especially with the help of the huge 'army' of Factionless completely bent to her will. She ends up being the sole leader of the resistance group with actual power. Evelyn cleverly distributes all the weapons amongst the Factionless, while slowly degrading all the fighting equipment of any other faction member. Eventually, the Factionless are the only ones with the power, while most of the other members continue to live in the illusion of equality.

6) Successfully Overthrowing Erudite's Power:

Tris manages to lead a group disguised as Erudite to infiltrate the faction headquarters. Once they get in, Tris, on an encounter with Caleb, realizes that the data would not be on the main computers. Therefore, they head up to Jeanine's private laboratory. When she walks into the laboratory she finds Tori

screaming at Jeanine to acknowledge her brother - a Divergent, who was killed on Jeanine's command. Tris disarms Tori, and after a struggle, attempts to explain that she wants Jeanine alive to obtain the information from her computer. Tori, in the height of rage, refuses and stabs Jeanine in the stomach, killing her. At this point, the Factionless also manage to take over the Erudite compound; killing many and holding everyone else as prisoners.

7) Abolishment of the Factions:

At the near-end of Insurgent, Evelyn announces the institution of a new factionless government and society. The Dauntless begin to protest but find themselves ineffectual, as they were effectively left powerless: the Factionless were the only ones with guns, and any promises made by the Factionless were ignored completely. Although the old faction members try to resist this new dictatorship, they realize that they are completely powerless, and the factions are successfully abolished.

Topics to be addressed

1) Ensuring the protection of Divergents and the Factionless

The city has always been cruel to Divergents as well as the Factionless. The goal of the committee is to achieve peace and security for all. Although some factions may have opposition, solutions will still be presented by both sides of the issue. There may be characters that are portrayed as stubborn and the delegate must act accordingly. Reminder that a good delegate will be able to convince people towards their side even if it's not applicable to the current situation. Some of the questions that might be raised and debated upon are as follows:

- ❖ Should the Divergents and the Factionless reside in an individual faction?
- ❖ Should they be able to reside in the city as servants of the government?
- ❖ Should the factionless be pitied on and reside in other welcoming factions?
- ❖ Should the divergents be left alone in the factions they currently reside among?

2) Possible remake of a systematized government

The government is one of the most crucial concerns of the committee. In order to achieve peace, the factions are to follow a regulatory system. During the sessions, the delegates are to come up with solutions that are agreed upon by all factions, the divergents as well as the factionless. The possibility of solutions have no restrictions upon them and can be presented by the faction as a whole or the idea of an individual. It is the responsibility of the delegate to form alliances or betray their own according to their character's nature. Some of the questions that might be raised and debated upon are as follows:

- ❖ Should the government contain each one of the leaders of the factions?
- ❖ Should the divergents be allowed to lead?
- ❖ What is the motive of the government to protect the city and provide justice?
- ❖ Shall there be anarchy? (*Each faction to its own within boundaries*)

3) Prevention of outbreaks in the city

Following previous events, the city has faced several outbreaks causing chaos to the innocent and ending in a disastrous number of casualties. The motive of the delegates are to come up with solutions that can prevent such outbreaks, as well as handling the situation if it were to happen in the future years. Whether it'd be simulating new forms of serum or creating peace agreements, all delegates are required to act according to their factions and the traits that come along with it.

Important rules to consider:

- **Position papers are required in order to qualify for the delegate awards.**
- Events from the future **cannot** be discussed. (*Whatever happens in the books that has not happened yet is thus unknown to the Council.*)
- Every delegate is strongly encouraged to act accordingly to their factions or a certain character assigned individually for the sake of the authenticity of the council
- **Drafts of the resolution papers are to be handed in to the chair** before presented to the committee.

Important Members

1) Beatrice Prior

'Tris' happens to be a strong-willed 16 year old and the main protagonist of the series. Even though transferred to Dauntless, she is classified as a Divergent. When she passed the initiation test for her new faction, she chose to go by the name 'Tris', believing that it was more suitable for a Dauntless. Being the first to jump from a high building (the final part of the Dauntless initiation test), she is considered to be extremely brave.

2) Four

Tobias "Four" Eaton is a member of Dauntless and serves as the instructor to the initiates born outside of Dauntless. He was born in the Abnegation sector to Marcus and Evelyn Johnson-Eaton. His mother abandoned him at young age and he grew up with his father, who was abusive to him. During his Choosing Ceremony, he chooses Dauntless as his faction to escape Marcus. He has tattooed the symbol of each faction on his spine, starting from Dauntless at the top, then Abnegation, Amity, Candor and Erudite. He explains that this represents that all the factions are important and vital, not just his own. He gets the nickname 'Four' from his instructor Amar due to having only four fears: heights, shooting someone, claustrophobia and his father Marcus Eaton.

4) Marcus Eaton

Marcus Eaton is one of the council members of Abnegation and is the only one out of these who remains alive after the attack of Dauntless controlled by Erudite through simulation. He was born in Abnegation and chooses Abnegation as his faction. He is the father of Tobias "Four" Eaton and since his childhood was abusive to him. He was close to Tris' father Andrew, as he was also one of the council members of Abnegation.

5) Caleb Prior

Caleb Prior is a member of Erudite faction. He was born in Abnegation to Andrew and Natalie Prior. He is the older brother of Beatrice Prior. In Divergent, during the choosing ceremony, he chooses Erudite and fits well with other Erudite initiates. In the beginning of the series, Tris is shown to look up to Caleb, however, time and time again he betrays her to Erudite and she ends up hating him. He, in his part, shows little to no unquestionable compassion towards his sister.

6) Jeanine Matthews*

Jeanine Matthews is the leader of Erudite, mainly because of her IQ score. She believes that knowledge is power, and so the Erudite alone must be the leaders of the society. She is jealous of the Abnegation's power, and accuses them of not doing a proper job. She successfully creates a mind-controlling serum, and uses it to create an army of Dauntless. (It is to be noted, however, that the leaders of Dauntless willingly ally themselves with Jeanine.)

7) Christina

Christina is a transfer from Candor to Dauntless. She becomes Tris' best friend since they both are initiates. She is frank to the point of being blunt, which she explains is because of her being in Candor for so long. She is a good-hearted friend, who's always on the lookout for Tris. She falls in love with Will, another Dauntless initiate. However, he dies by the hands of Tris while under the simulation serum. In *Insurgent*, Tris reveals this secret, and this causes a falling out of Christina and her. Later, when Tris almost breaks down in front of Christina because of the guilt, Christina forgives her and their bond is re-strengthened.

8) Eric*

Eric is a cruel Dauntless leader. He quickly became a rival of Four after coming second during the final rankings – Four was first. He is shown to be extremely competitive during the game of Capture the Flag, choosing a team built for power, but loses when Four's team wins. His hatred of Four is so extreme that he tries to kill Four when he assumes to be under the effect of the simulation serum. Luckily, Tris holds him at gun-point instead and even ends up shooting his foot. He is later captured by loyal Dauntless who are trying to resist Erudite's control.

9) Evelyn Johnson

Evelyn Johnson is the leader of the Factionless. She is a former abnegation member, and the wife of Marcus Eaton. She left Four when he was very young, believing that Marcus will take better care of him. To escape her husband's abuse, she faked her death and joined the Factionless. She allies with the Dauntless telling them that she would help him destroy Jeanine's government and restore the factions. However, she ends up betraying them and implements her actual plans – abolishing all factions.

10) Tori Wu

Tori is a Dauntless member and was the one who took Tris' aptitude test. She is the first to discover that Tris is Divergent and briefly explains the dangers that come along with it. She helps Tris by hiding her actual report and handing another one manually. She is later revealed to be a tattoo artist in Dauntless, and ends up becoming good friends with Tris. She explains that her brother was also a Divergent and believes that he was murdered. Tori hates Jeanine, believing that she was the reason behinds her brother's assassination.

11) Johanna Reyes

Johanna is the representative of Amity. She is not a leader, which the Amity refuse to get, making the faction a true democracy. She is shown to be wise and wants to work to stop the war Erudite has started. However, she is unable to do anything because her factions choose to stay neutral.

12) Jack Kang

Jack is the leader of Candor. He is against Jeanine for wanting to control all the factions. He helps the Dauntless, giving them shelter in Candor compounds until they're ready to leave. Like most Candor, he is shown as being just, reliable, and trustworthy. He isn't influenced by the huge show of power by Jeanine, instead he chose to stick with what he considers to be lawful.

13) Peter

Peter Hayes is a major character in Divergent, who was originally from Candor and is one of Tris' mortal enemies. Throughout the course of the first novel, Peter is shown to be cruel, antagonistic, ill-tempered, and easily jealous. His behaviour is usually unpredictable and violent. However, in Insurgent Peter helps Tris escape the Erudite prison, and later, even helps Tris get back into the compound. He reveals that the only reason he's helping her is because Tris saved his life once, and he doesn't want to be indebted to that. Peter is shown to be extremely selfish, and is shown to only work in self-benefiting ways - that is after he has repaid any favors by others.

14) Edward:

Edward was born in Erudite but transfers into Dauntless. He later becomes voluntarily factionless after Peter stabs him in the eye as his injury makes it difficult for him to complete the Dauntless initiation. He is great in hand to hand combat, which he learned since he was ten and is often described as fast and athletic. He is in a relationship with Myra, who also leaves Dauntless with him but they later break up because of his increasingly violent nature.

**According to the story, these characters are now dead. However, for the conference, they will remain alive and well.*

Links for Further Research

http://divergent.wikia.com/wiki/Divergent_Wiki

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Divergent_\(novel\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Divergent_(novel))

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Insurgent_\(nove](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Insurgent_(nove)