**Character Development Essay**

Katniss Everdeen's world where survival is a daily battle. People are forced to change, adapt, and grow. Katniss is no exception, as she develops from a quiet, cautious girl to a fierce and strategic leader. Through her experiences in District 12, especially in the Seam, the Capitol, and the arena, Katniss undergoes significant changes from her initial role as a protective sister to becoming a great symbol against the Capitol.

Firstly, at the beginning of the novel, Katniss is driven by her responsibility for her family, a role that has shaped her into a resourceful individual. In District 12, Katniss often sneaks into the woods to hunt, risking her life to ensure her family’s survival. She hates “District 12, where you can starve to death in safety” (Collins 6). This illustrates her willingness to rule break for her family safe, even if it means putting her life in danger. Katniss’s devotion to her sister is clear when she volunteers to take Prim's place in the reaping, declaring “I volunteer as tribute” (Collins 22). Despite knowing the life-threatening risks involved, this act of sacrifice marks the beginning of her transformation, showing her deep love for her sister and willingness to take on challenges for others. From these actions, it’s clear that Katniss is a determined family-focused individual, motivated by her love for her family.

However, as she enters the Capitol and arena, Katniss is forced to confront new realities, which push her to develop her leadership skills and strategic thinking. In the Capitol, Katniss quickly understands the importance of public perception when she plays against Peeta's romantic thinking, realizing it could help her do better in the games. She states “The kiss equals one pot of broth” (Collins 261). This shows how Katniss realized the importance of manipulation to her view in front of the audience to increase her chance of survival. This shift from only focusing on survival to influencing the audience and sponsors demonstrates her growing mind and her ability to adapt to the Capitol’s challenge mentally of the games. In the arena, Katniss forms an emotional bond with Rue, which helps her understand the value of survival in the games even more. Rue’s death is a pivotal moment for Katniss in the arena as she states, “I decorated her body in the flowers covering the ugly wound” (Collins 233). This is an act of rebellion against the Capitol and shows Katniss moving from survival mode to becoming resistant against the Capitol which is a mindset that will grow as the story unfolds. In the Capitol and the arena, Katniss evolves from simply trying to survive into someone who is more aware of everything around her including traitors and manipulation and she begins to challenge the Capitol.

Katniss starts off as a quiet, self-reliant, focused on survival, but through her experiences in the Capitol and the arena, she grows into a brave and strategic girl who begins to challenge the Capitol’s control. As the games go on, it becomes clear is not only surviving for herself and her family but also for others and also trying to rebellion against the Capitol which shows her dramatic change and development.