

# College Composition: Apocalypse Definition Essay

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When I was younger, about 8 - 9 years old, I enjoyed watching shows like **Popular Mechanics** and **National Geographic**. Unfortunately, I regretted watching one of the **National Geographic** videos for almost 2 years. The video talked about sinkholes, which terrorized me. Since I was a very optimistic, naive little kid who didn't think anything was wrong in the world, this took its toll on me. My bubble of a world shook. The world wasn't all flowers and roses anymore. I created many dark ideas about how the world may end. From fire and flames to floods and light beaming from the sky. From that day on, I imagined every day as the last day, spending countless hours reading about sinkholes. Every time I tried to sleep, I would hear the piercing sound coming from the sinkholes and visually see it as if I was falling into one. My family forbade me from reading any more books on the matter. Eventually, like all little kids, I grew out of this phobia.

The online etymological dictionary defines the term **Apocalypse** as *a cataclysmic event*. There are other ways to interpret the term, which is what I'll be discussion with you.

A smoke so thick you cannot see your hand, even if it's an inch from your face covers the entire atmosphere. A beast comes to talk to you while there are earthquakes shaking the entire world. Fires ravage from Yemen, which forces everybody to one location. This is how the Islamic religion depicts the end of times. I grew up with this story if how the end of times will commence. I didn't really take it too seriously, but eventually, I decided to learn more about it. It's narrated that after Prophet Muhammad lead the morning prayer (**fajir**), which is around 4 AM, he got on his mimbar and he preached until the noon prayer (**duhr**), which is around 1 PM. After they finished praying, he got back up and preached until the next prayer, and the next and the final prayer, which is around 11 PM. He's describing the end of times. You can find dozens of volumes of books talking about this subject and that doesn't even cover half of everything. There are two chapters in the Quran which are dedicated to talking about this specific event. The first one, Al-Waqiah, which means **The Inevitable** and Al-Qiyamah, which means **The Resurrection**. Prophet Muhammad stated that the End of Days won't happen until you see the 10 signs. The first sign is a thick smoke that will cover our entire atmosphere. After that, the Dajjal, or Anti-Christ will come while a beast comes to talk to the people. One of the most dang ours signs is when the sun rises and sets on opposite directions. The reason this is dangerous is because when this happens, Allah won't forgive anybody and if

anybody wants to become Muslim after this event, it won't be accepted. Then, Jesus PBU descends to kill the Dajjal, which is right before the Gog and Magog arrival. The next sign are a group of 3. 3 earthquakes shake the entire earth. One in the East, one in the West, and one in the Arabian Peninsula. The final one is a fire from Yemen will start to gather all the people around the world to the place called Mahshar, which means the gather place. This is where the people will be resurrected for the day of judgment. Prophet Muhammad said if you see only one of these signs, be prepared to see the next ones very soon. While all of these signs are happening, the world will split into 2 categories. Muslims vs Christians. The Prophet Muhammad called this war the **Great War**. He also said that there will be no affliction that will be worse than this war. I'm not going to go in detail because I would end up writing an entire volume of books, but a key highlight is when the people are gathered in the Mahshar, a breeze will come down and whoever has an ounce of faith will die peacefully while the non-believers will die later on. After every body dies, Allah folds the entire Universe with one hand and the other 6 universes with the other. After a while, he calls everybody to be judged for what they have done.

The **Train to Busan** is an apocalyptic Korean zombie movie. The main plot of the movie is about a father and his daughter trying to make their way across **South Korea**, via a train, when, out of nowhere, a virus starts to spread among the passengers. The said virus kills the victim and makes them become a zombie. It focuses on different aspects, which other zombie movies may not. It criticizes society on many levels, one being, how humans are and how an event so colossal as an apocalypse can show their true skin. The characters in the movie make this movie distinct because they're very likable people since they aren't horrible to other people and selfless. Usually, we see one main character who survives by sheer luck or by sacrificing everybody to save himself. In this movie, the clever ones are the people standing in the end if they decide not to sacrifice themselves to save everybody else.

Initially, I assumed that the term **Apocalypse** meant the end of the world. Although that definition is a worldwide accepted meaning, there are other definitions and interpretations. One interpretation may be *an Apocalypse brings out the true color in people*. It will help you distinguish your friends from your enemies and vice versa. Also, an apocalypse may be the end of a chapter and the beginning of something new like how all the religious scriptures say. Even in the **Train to Busan**. The apocalypse may start something

new like a discovery about something from a different world. That's also the main theme for the Quranic end of times, where everybody will turn against each other to blame for their sins, which reveals who they truly are. One thing that struck me the most was how my fear of sinkholes started to reveal to me about a world that I never knew, one that no religious text, or even apocalyptic movies/books can display. My fear of sinkholes gathered my family together to help me, even if it's not the best way possible. On the other hand, the Quranic text shows what will happen in the far out future while my fear displayed fears of everyday life. The Train to Busan displayed that really well for me because the virus just appeared out of nowhere, which is what I thought would happen with sinkholes. Overall, I'm glad that I went through with the troubles since it helped develop my personality and widen my view of the world.