

Panopticon is fascinating and a relevant concept in that we (people living in the modern era) can apply the concept to the world that we currently live in. Panopticon, in simple terms, is basically a prison consisting of prisoners and prison guards. Prisoners are placed in cells where the prison guards can constantly monitor their behaviors. Although the guards can watch and monitor the prisoners 24/7, the prisoners cannot physically see the guards who are located in the control tower, or the center of the prison.

The symbolic meaning behind a panopticon is that it controls and (possibly) manipulates the behaviors of the prisoners. When applied to the modern world, we are all in fact living in a panopticon. The only difference between us and the prisoners is that we believe our freedom has not yet been taken away while the prisoners understand their reality. We are under constant surveillance from the government are way too careless about voluntarily giving up our privacy to government agents and private corporations. We as modern citizen should recognize the surveillances we are put under on a daily bases while we should also avoid undermining the importance of privacy, as it has a direct correlation to our freedom.