**GROUP FOUR: Marlon**

Marlon is a character used by the television producers to encourage Truman to conform to the status quo.

1. Define **status quo**.

2. Define **conformity**.

“Whoever so be a man must be a non-conformist” is a quote by the famous American writer Ralph Waldo Emerson.

3. What does the quote mean? Would Emerson consider Marlon to be a “man” according to the above statement?

At the start of the film, Marlon is interviewed as an actor on the show and says “it’s all true. It’s all real. Nothing here is fake. Nothing you see on this show is fake. It’s merely controlled”.

4. Define **fake** and **controlled**.

5. Is there a difference between the terms fake and controlled? Explain the difference.

6. Can you identify any relationships or events in the film that were controlled but not fake?

Truman has great trust in Marlon, and in fact, he is the only character that Truman does not try to “trick” or “manipulate” as he starts to become suspicious of his environment. One evening Truman reveals his dream to go to Fiji to Marlon:

[Marlon](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0001187/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): Where the hell's Fiji? Near Florida?

[Truman](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000120/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): [pointing to golf ball] See here?

[Marlon](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0001187/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): Yeah.

[Truman](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000120/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): This is us...

[guides finger halfway around ball]

[Truman](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000120/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): and all the way around here... FIJI. You can't get any further away before you start coming back.

After Truman attempts to escape and Meryl and him have the argument in the kitchen, Truman and Marlon share a beer at the jetty. Truman explains to Marlon that he feels that there is a conspiracy going on all around him to which Marlon replies “that’s a whole lot of world for one man”.

Before reintroducing Truman’s father, Marlon says the following to Truman to reassure him that there is no such conspiracy:

[Marlon](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0001187/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): [Emotional almost to the point of tears] The point is, I would gladly step in front of traffic for you Truman. And the last thing I would ever do to you...

[Christof](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000438/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): [Feeding Marlon his lines] ... is lie to you.

[Marlon](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0001187/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): ...is lie to you.

6. Reflecting on the two scenes above, how does Marlon attempt to confine Truman to his reality?

You are to answer the questions above in your expert groups and then provide a five sentence summary to your home group of your discussion and findings.