

**Homework (2): Entropy**  
**Due: Tuesday, October 15th**

By now we have learned that entropy is the measure of disorder in a closed system: the greater the disorder, the higher the entropy. We have also learned that there is a natural tendency towards entropy, and it takes “work” to counteract it, or at least keep the status quo. Both of the stories we read this week confront the possible situation of maximum entropy (also referred to as “heat death”).

Before you start writing, think about the ways in which entropy (or more generally, the tendency toward disorder) is valued in both texts. Is it positive? something to be dreaded? or just an inevitable part of life? Also consider the language of popular culture each author uses (jazz music, cereal boxes, cleaning agents, etc.) to bring entropy out of the realm of the natural sciences into our daily routine.

Then, in your two-page response, identify one theme from either story (or both, if you prefer) which you think is relevant to entropy. Good possibilities might be: music, love, communication, writing, the party, violence ... etc. Your paper should discuss specific examples and say something about why this theme helps us better understand the text.