Write a three- to five-page (typed) essay on one of the following:

1. In the last paragraph of the “Introduction by One of the Last Men,” Stapledon writes of “alighting at critical points to speak face to face with individuals” (15). Select one such point in this massive chronicle and analyze its characters and ideas. (Examples include: the Daughter of Man, the Divine Boy, or the Martians.) Discuss both the episode itself and its implications for the book as a whole, emphasizing either the smaller or the larger perspective, as you see fit.

2. *Last and First Men* presents huge themes. Select one and trace its development from the opening to the closing chapters of the book. (Examples include: spirit, sanity, materialism, personality, community.) You may well not be able to touch on every episode in the chronicle that contributes to the development of your chosen theme, but do cover at least some of the scope of its two billion-year storyline.

3. Create your own topic in response to Stapledon.

Remember our two key questions:

1. **How** do you know what you know?
2. **Why** do you feel what you feel?