**Writing Task #2**

**Passage**

**The novel *Endymion* was written by Benjamin Disraeli, who served twice as the prime minister of England. *Endymion* tells the story of a young man captivated by the world of politics and ambition. In the passage below, the main character, Endymion, is having coffee with the Baron Sergius, a wealthy and powerful man who lives a private life and whom Endymion has just**

**met.**

**As you read the passage below, consider what it is saying about fame and power. from *Endymion***

by Benjamin Disraeli

There was a packet on the table, which seemed to catch the colonel’s eye immediately, and he at once opened it with eagerness. It contained many foreign newspapers.

“A foreign newspaper always interests our friend,” said the baron, taking his coffee. “Well, it must always be interesting to have news from home, I suppose,” said Endymion. “Home!” said the baron. “News is always interesting, whether it come from home or not.” “To public men**1**,” said Endymion.

“To all men if they be wise,” said the baron; “as a general rule, the most successful man in life is

the man who has the best information.”

“But what a rare thing is success in life!” said Endymion. “I often wonder whether I shall ever be able to step out of the crowd.”

“You may have success in life without stepping out of the crowd,” said the baron.

“A sort of success,” said Endymion; “I know what you mean. But what I mean is real success in life. I mean, I should like to be a public man.”

“Why?” asked the baron.

“Well, I should like to have power,” said Endymion, blushing.

“The most powerful men are not public men,” said the baron. “A public man is responsible, and a responsible man is a slave. It is private life that governs the world. You will find this out some day. The world talks much of powerful sovereigns and great ministers; and if being talked about made one powerful, they would be irresistible. But the fact is, the more you are talked about the less powerful you are.”

“What you say about public life amazes me,” said Endymion musingly.

**1**people who are well known and in the public eye

“Think over it,” said the baron. “As an Englishman, you will have difficulty in avoiding public life. But at any rate do not at present be discontented that you are unknown. It is the first condition of real power. When you have succeeded in life according to your views, and I am inclined to believe you will so succeed, you will, some day, sigh for real power, and denounce the time when you became a public man, and belonged to anyone but yourself. But our friend calls me. He has found something startling. I will venture to say, if there be anything in it, it has been brought about

by some individual of whom you never heard.”

**Writing Prompt**

1. After reading the passage, write a well-developed multiparagraph essay that explains the relationship between power and fame. Use specific details from the passage to support your response.