

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date Due: Friday, August 9, 2013



**Honors English II Summer Reading Assignment**  
**S. Rayle & L. Jobe**  
**Rossview High School**

***1984* by George Orwell**

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For the 2013 – 2014 school year, sophomore students will read the novel *1984* by George Orwell. **THE SCHOOL WILL NOT PROVIDE THE NOVEL.** It can be found at local bookstores as well as from online resources. Students are expected to read the novel, complete ONE (1) of the following essays, and take a test on FRIDAY, AUGUST 9, 2013. Failure to complete the assignment will result in an automatic removal from honors English, and plagiarism is not tolerated. A copy of this assignment can be found on the RHS website. The notes and study guide provided are for your benefit; they will NOT be taken up for a grade. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Ms. Rayle at [stephanie.rayle@cmcss.net](mailto:stephanie.rayle@cmcss.net) or Mrs. Jobe at [lexi.job@cmcss.net](mailto:lexi.job@cmcss.net).

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**Essay Topics**

*Choose ONE (1) of the four essay topics. Write a four to five paragraph essay for your response. Your essay should be organized, detailed, and should contain both an introductory and a conclusion paragraph. IT MUST BE TYPED (double-spaced), and adhere to current MLA formatting guidelines. If you are not familiar with MLA formatting – look it up! Please proofread your essay for errors and use correct grammar. Please attach the scoring rubric to the front of your essay. Your essay is due on FRIDAY, AUGUST 9, 2013!*

1. Detail the ways in which Oceania goes about stripping away the humanity from its citizens and seeks to turn them into non-feeling automatons that are devoted to the state. Consider what they do in regard to the following: language, human relationships, marriage and family life, the workplace, and the media.
2. Detail the place and role of each of the three classes in Oceania society. State why and how Oceania wishes to foster inequality among its citizens.
3. Define the term “parable” and point out, by referring to the story, why this novel is considered a political parable.
4. If we termed this novel a “cautionary piece,” we would be saying that one of Orwell’s purposes in writing this book is to caution people about what can happen to society in the future. Assuming that this is a “cautionary piece,” of what dangers is Orwell warning us?

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_ NBP# \_\_\_\_\_

## **1984 Essay Rubric**

<b>Points Earned</b>	<b>Points Possible</b>	<b>Trait</b>	<b>Description</b>
	15	Introduction	The topic is clearly introduced in an interesting manner and includes a well-constructed thesis statement. Introduction contains a hook and necessary information. Introduction is fully developed and has approximately five well-written sentences.
	15	Organization	The varying ideas of the essay are organized into paragraphs. Sentences flow together in a logical, interesting way. Transitions are used when necessary to connect ideas.
	40	Analysis	The essay fulfills the various aspects of the prompt. The essay includes examples from the novel.
	10	Diction	The writer uses strong verbs and vivid, precise language that make the essay come alive in the reader's mind. The essay contains figurative language.
	20	Support	The essay contains relevant textual support and details for the ideas presented. Use of quotes (minimum of three in text citations) to support analysis is met. Essay is appropriate length.
	10	Sentence Fluency	Sentences sound pleasing to the ear when read aloud because they are easy to understand and vary in length.
	15	Grammatical Conventions	The essay contains no errors in spelling, capitalization, punctuation, and sentence structure (e.g., run-ons, fragments, pronoun-antecedent agreement, subject-verb agreement).
	5	Conclusion	The essay concludes by wrapping up all loose ends and leaves the readers with a sense of closure.
	20	Presentation	The essay adheres to MLA formatting guidelines, including heading, double-spacing, title, and parenthetical citations.

**Final Grade : \_\_\_\_\_ / 150 points**

# 1984 by George Orwell Study Guide

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## Part 1, Chapters 1-4

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1. Describe the government of Oceania.
2. Why does Winston keep a diary?
3. How does the diary function as a literary device?
4. What is the purpose of the Two Minute Hate?
5. How does Winston react to the Two Minute Hate?
6. How does his momentary eye contact with O'Brien affect Winston?
7. Who are the Parsons and what do they represent?
8. What is the significance of Winston's dream in which a voice speaks to him about meeting in a place where there is no darkness?
9. Why does Winston place a speck of dust on the cover of his diary?
10. Why does Winston choose dust as his means of detecting whether or not anyone has disturbed his diary?
11. What do Winston's dreams about his mother, the Golden Country, and the dark-haired girl reveal about him?
12. What are the Physical Jerks?
13. Explain the meaning of doublethink?
14. Describe Winston's job.
15. Does Winston like his job?

## Part 1, Chapters 5-8

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16. What is revealed about Party philosophy in the discussion between Winston and Syme?
17. What do Winston's memories of Katherine and his visit to a prostitute reveal about attitudes toward sex in Oceania?
18. Why was the photograph of Jones, Aaronson, and Rutherford important?
19. How does Winston view the proles?
20. What does Winston think about after his conversation with the old man in the pub?
21. What does Winston discover at Mr. Charrington's shop?
22. What does Winston think when he sees the dark-haired girl outside Mr. Charrington's shop?

## Part 2, Chapters 1-5

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23. How does Winston react to the note from Julia?
24. What does Winston think when he sees the place Julia selects for their rendezvous?
25. What does Winston mean when he says that he loves Julia all the more because she has had scores of previous sexual encounters?
26. What is the significance of the song the woman in the courtyard sings while Winston waits for Julia?
27. How does Winston react when Julia tells him about the rat she has seen in their room?
28. Why does Winston say that Julia is a rebel only from the waist down?

## Part 2, Chapters 6-10

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29. What finally convinces Winston that O'Brien is a member of the Brotherhood?
30. What does Winston realize about love and loyalty as a result of the dream about the paperweight?
31. How does the dream about the paperweight affect Winston's attitude toward the Party and the proles?
32. Why do Winston and Julia visit O'Brien at his apartment and how does O'Brien test them?
33. What is the significance of the wine which O'Brien severs Winston and Julia?

34. Why are Winston and Julia convinced, after their meeting with O'Brien, that he is a member of the secret Brotherhood?
35. Why does *1984* contain long passages from "the book"?
36. According to "the book," what is the actual, although unstated, purpose of endemic war between the three superstates?
37. What is the meaning of the Party slogan "War is Peace"?
38. Why don't Julia and Winston realize they have overslept?
39. Summarize the elements of symbolism and irony in the arrest scene.

### **Part 3, Chapters 1-6** \_\_\_\_\_

40. Why are the common criminals and political prisoners treated differently in the temporary lock-up?
41. What symbolic meaning can be drawn from the fact that the Ministry of Love has no windows and is kept artificially illuminated all the time?
42. Compare Ampleforth's and Parsons' reactions to their arrests.
43. When does Winston first realize that O'Brien is directing his torture?
44. How does Winston react to the first pain he suffers?
45. Why does O'Brien wish to convince Winston that two plus two equals five?
46. What reason does O'Brien give for Winston's being brought to the Ministry of Love?
47. Why doesn't the Party simply liquidate rebellious members?
48. What effect does the machine attached to Winston's temples have on his brain?
49. How do O'Brien and Winston each define existence?
50. Summarize the three stages of treatment at the Ministry of Love.
51. What does Winston find in Room 101?
52. What does the scene of Winston in the Chestnut Tree Café reveal about him?
53. What happens when Winston and Julia accidentally meet?
54. How does Winston react to the news of victory in Africa?

### **Appendix** \_\_\_\_\_

55. What is the purpose of Newspeak?
56. Explain the differences between the three sets of Newspeak vocabulary.
57. Why is there not word for science in Newspeak?
58. Orwell quotes three different sentences from the American Declaration of Independence. What ideas do these sentences express and how are they translated into Newspeak?

### **Possible Essay Questions** \_\_\_\_\_

1. Describe Julia's attitude toward life. How does her attitude shape her response to the Party?
2. Describe Winston's attitude toward life. How is this attitude reflected in Winston's response to the Party?
3. Why does the Party rewrite the past?
4. Why does O'Brien refer to Winston as the last man?
5. What does the glass paperweight symbolize?
6. The technology described in the novel already exists. Why do you suppose more imaginative inventions are not employed?
7. Is Winston doomed to failure?

## 1984 – Notes

George Orwell's classic tale of a future world gone horribly wrong

### The Author – George Orwell



- Born 1903 in India, grew up in England
- After school, joined civil service
- Was a sergeant in the police force
- Saw British imperialism first-hand in India, was appalled at the oppression he witnessed
- Chose to live among the lower classes for one year
- Became a socialist, moved to Spain, was kicked out by Communist Party
- In 1945, wrote *Animal Farm*, a political satire
- *1984* published in 1949

### Socialism vs. Communism

- Socialism is a political and economic theory where some aspects of society are governed by a regulatory body
- Industry should be socially responsible (i.e. take care of one another - utopia)
- Communism is a social and political ideology justifying state control of ALL aspects of society
- Each member works for the common good and receives benefits based on need
- The economy is centrally planned
- Progressed into totalitarianism

### What's it about?

- A novel of psychological terror that warns us about a future where the government controls everything and individual rights are taken away
- The novel was a response to Totalitarian governments (Stalin, Hitler, Mussolini, etc.)
- The world of *1984* is a negative utopia --- a *dystopia*.
- The main character, Winston Smith, tries to rebel against society
- He begins his rebellion with the simple act of writing in his journal --- which is illegal

### What's this world like?

- All citizens are monitored by telescreens which are present in all homes and workplaces
- The government is represented by Big Brother, a figure who "sees everything"



### More...

- Laws are enforced by the Thought Police, who arrest and "vaporize" anyone who even *thinks* disruptive thoughts
- History is constantly rewritten so that the predictions of Big Brother will never be wrong
- Citizens are constantly asked to show their allegiance by engaging in rallies and meetings to support Big Brother
- Hatred for the enemies of Big Brother is encouraged through the use of *propaganda*
- The society of Oceania is constantly at war with other countries --- or so Big Brother says.

### A few terms from *1984*

- *Doublethink* – the ability to believe two contradictory things at the same time
- *Newspeak* – the language of Oceania
- *Ingsoc* – Oceania's form of government
- *Thought crime* – thinking anti-party thoughts
- *Inner Party/Outer party* – those closest to Big Brother and those on the outside
- *Proles* – the lower classes who live in a separate part of the city

### Winston Smith – the protagonist

- A normal, insignificant, lonely man in a world that is devoid of creativity and color
- Feels that something is missing in his life and wants to break free
- Constantly paranoid that he will be discovered and arrested for Thought Crime
- Was once married
- Works in the Records Department

### Themes

- Alienation
- Love
- Individuality/Freedom of Thought and Speech
- Governmental Control
- Appearance vs. Reality



### Questions to consider as you read

- This novel predicted one *possible* future. Are we closer to *1984* today than we were in 1949?
- How are our thoughts controlled today?
- Who is Big Brother?
- What are the key symbols in the novel?
- In what ways are we watched and monitored today?

### Orwellian?

- This word comes directly from Orwell's writing in *1984*. It carries a negative connotation and refers to anything involving systematic controlling/monitoring of the individual. For example, the installation of security cameras at Rossview...

