

Mr. Johnessee's Summer Assignment 2022-23

AP US Government and Politics

You will need to get your hands on a copy of George Orwell's book 1984. You can either buy one online or there are free versions online.

dystopia: (n) an imaginary place or condition in which everything is bad.

“This definition from the *Oxford English Dictionary* would seem fitting in relation to the situations and societies often depicted in dystopian literature. When we think about the dystopian novel, what first comes to mind is often **George Orwell's Nineteen-Eighty-Four**. First published in 1949, it was Orwell's final work. In it he prophesied the advent of a flawless totalitarian society, in which the individual is of literally no significance. However, as it happened, the year 1984 came and went and we did not find ourselves slaves to the Party, although publishers made a killing with endless commemorative reprints. Nevertheless, *Nineteen-Eighty-Four* remains one of Orwell's most popular works, and we are all familiar with others such as Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World* and Anthony Burgess' *A Clockwork Orange*.”

Assignment: Read George Orwell's 1984 and answer the following discussion questions and probing questions. Assignment must be typed along with correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation. This will be a 100-point summative assessment grade come second semester. Keep in mind, there aren't necessarily “right/wrong” answers, what I am looking for are thoughtful and complete responses to the reading.

Discussion Questions:

1. Who is Emmanuel Goldstein and how is he represented to the people of Oceania? What is the significance of the Jewish name?
2. **Language and Communication:** What is Newspeak? What is its purpose? Why is it necessary for the Party to rid the language of synonyms and antonyms?

3. **Philosophical Viewpoints:** Winston contemplates the meaning of life, of existence, of history, of power and each one's relation to the other. What is existence? What is reality? Is reality dependent on the observer?
4. **Power – Totalitarianism:** The Party uses a number of techniques to control its citizens. They carefully monitor every aspect of life of the citizens of Oceania. What are the ways in which the Party uses its power to control its citizens?
5. **War** – Why is it necessary for Oceania to be engaged in perpetual war? Why does it have to be perpetual war with a constantly shifting enemy?
6. **Torture and Violence** – How does the Party use physical torture to control its citizens? How does the Party use psychological torture to control its citizens? Why is it necessary for the Party to use torture to maintain control in its totalitarian state?
7. **Technology** – How does technology facilitate evil in the novel? Is privacy possible in Oceania? How and why does the Party use technology to control its citizens?
8. **Manipulation** – Why is it necessary for the Party to control the past, present, and future? How is this manipulation made possible?
9. **Loyalty** – What loyalties are “allowed” in *1984*? Are private loyalties possible?
10. **Rebellion** – In what ways does Winston display his rebellions? What acts of rebellion does Julia engage? How are Winston’s and Julia’s acts of rebellion different and similar?
11. **Big Brother** – What does Big Brother represent? How is he used in the Party’s totalitarian state in Oceania?
12. **Glass Paperweight and St. Clemens Church** – What is the significance of these symbols for Winston? What do they represent?
13. **Red armed Prole woman** – What is the significance of the Prole woman and what does she represent in Winston’s mind?

Probing Questions:

1. What responsibility do I have to society?
2. What can I do to avoid repeating mistakes made in history?
3. What kind of world do I want to live in? My future children?
4. What must I do to create the world in which I want to live?

5. What makes a good leader?
6. What leadership skills have I developed?
7. Will I be a leader or a follower? Why?
8. They say you influence around 10,000 people over the span of your life.
How will you use your influence and leadership to create the world in which
you want to live?