

1984 Seminar Coaching/Prep

Vocab

(Know these! If you need help defining/understanding, be resourceful and figure some stuff out!)

<u>From the book:</u> Newspeak (and Oldspeak) Inner Party/Outer Party proles (proletarian) Two Minutes Hate doublethink crimethink Thinkpol blackwhite ownlife unperson Minipax, Minitrue, Miniluv, Miniplenty memory hole	<u>Concepts:</u> authoritarianism Totalitarianism fascism demagogue indoctrination rebellion government surveillance "Orwellian" objective reality free will * Intertextuality (this is a concept that we will be exploring throughout 2nd semester)
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Honors Meeting 12/3 for Seminar Coaching

(Try to be at least through Section Two by this time, or pg 200)

Four "Corners":

- Government surveillance is necessary to keep us safe. You shouldn't worry about it if you are not doing anything wrong.
- Torture is an appropriate way to gather intelligence as long as the prisoner does not die.
- If the government can prove you were thinking about a crime, they should be able to arrest you.
- We are living in a "post-factual world."

Themes/Quote Search

Identify some of the larger themes of the novel and find quotes that illuminate those themes.

Themes	Quotes that illuminate themes

Optional Enrichment

Intertextuality: Making connections between texts (Read, annotate, think about)

1. Read [“The Danger of American Fascism”](#) by Henry A. Wallace (33rd VPOTUS)

(An article in the *New York Times*, April 9, 1944, 5 years before the publication of 1984, the year before the Allies defeated the Nazis)

2. Read [“The 14 Defining Characteristics of Fascism”](#) by Dr. Lawrence Britt *Free Inquiry* May 11, 2003

3. Read: [Orwell v Huxley: Whose dystopia are we living in today?](#)

***If you have not read *Brave New World* (or even if you have), please watch one (or both) of these two video summaries:

1. [Video SparkNotes: Aldous Huxley's Brave New World summary](#)
2. [Brave New World - Thug Notes Summary and Analysis](#)

(AHM...). I am just going to put these right here for resourceful folks: [Thug Notes 1984](#); [Crash Course Literature 1984](#). **College tip:** using resources like these isn't cheating if you are still doing the intellectual work of understanding the text and participating in the bigger intertextual conversation around it.)

Seminar Prep for ONLINE SEMINAR 12/10

For seminar: Prepare yourself to discuss the following questions in seminar by documenting your thoughts and gathering evidence *in a way that is meaningful for you*.

- Possible strategies for documentation: written answers, recording quotes/evidence from 1984 or other texts, bullet lists, thought maps and/or graphic representations

Seminar Essential Questions:

- How does a single group gain total power in society? Why do people submit to authoritarianism?
- What are the reasons why people might *not* submit to authoritarian power? Is rebellion worth it? What drives Winston's rebellion? Why do think Orwell ends the novel the way that he does?
- What is the purpose of Newspeak? What is the relationship between language and power, both in Orwell's Oceania AND in the political world we are living in?
- Is a government capable of distorting and/or reshaping objective reality (and history) in the minds of its people? Or is our free will too strong for such blind obedience? (Is 1984 an actual possibility in human life? In American life?)
- Could the technologies of today make Big Brother possible? How? What would have to happen?
- Which dystopian novel do you think contains more plausibility and/or relevancy to our society and culture, 1984 or *Brave New World* (or maybe *The Hunger Games*)? Why?

Seminar Reflection and Synthesis 1984

CHOOSE **TWO** OF THE FOLLOWING TO RESPOND TO IN TEA PARAGRAPHS:

1. **REACTION TO DISCUSSION:** React to something that was discussed in the seminar. Was there anything that enlightened you? Something you particularly disagree with? How did your thinking about the book change as a result of this seminar?
2. **REACTION TO BOOK:** Write a robust TEA paragraph that answers one of the following questions. Use details and specifics from the novel to elaborate on your answer.

Seminar Essential Questions:

- a. How does a single group gain total power in society? Why do people submit to authoritarianism?
 - b. What are the reasons why people might *not* submit to authoritarian power? Is rebellion worth it? What drives Winston's rebellion? Why do think Orwell ends the novel the way that he does?
 - c. What is the purpose of Newspeak? What is the relationship between language and power, both in Orwell's Oceania AND in the political world we are living in?
 - d. Is a government capable of distorting and/or reshaping objective reality (and history) in the minds of its people? Or is our free will too strong for such blind obedience?
 - e. Is *1984* an actual possibility in human life? In American life?
 - f. Could the technologies of today make Big Brother possible? How? What would have to happen?
 - g. Which dystopian novel do you think contains more plausibility and/or relevancy to our society and culture, *1984* or *Brave New World* (or maybe *The Hunger Games*)? Why?
3. **EXTEND YOUR THINKING:** Read [The 14 Defining Characteristics Of Fascism](#) and/or ["The Danger of American Fascism."](#) Explore which tendencies you could see getting out of hand in our own society. Choose several characteristics from these readings that you see as having the potential to corrupt our democracy and explain how that might happen in America.