

If you missed the seminar or would like to raise your grade by a letter, write robust paragraphs answering each of the following questions. You must use evidence from the seminar texts in each answer. Please use your own knowledge of history and the present as well as it applies to each question.

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 you 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?