

Well, this'll probably be one of the worst cover sheets you'll see content-wise, but none of my group really had much to say on mine other than Joseph pointing out that the way I worded a sentence made it sound like there were two Parties, not one with a split in it. So yea, don't really know what to say here... the weather's awfully warm even though it's pretty much mid-fall? Why is the price of tea in China so important even though no one actually seems to know what it is? Did Newton ever meet Wile E. Coyote? Why does it matter if a tree falling in a forest makes noise or not, they're massive trees falling, why not run? What kind of twisted psychopath was Schrodinger to put cats in a box and say that it may or may not be dead, couldn't either sounds or smells give it away? Will this completely pointless coversheet ever end? Well, at least one of these questions is easily answered.

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George Orwell's novel 1984 casts an oppressive view of the future in which the government controls the minds of its subjects, monitors their every move, and seeks to control every facet of their existence. The government of 1984 is comprised of The Party, divided into The Inner Party and The Outer Party, and Big Brother, their all powerful leader, but even the government officials who write the laws of their country and past aren't above being 'vaporized' for breaking one of the many unspoken laws of the Party. The Party controls its subjects' realities by removing any possibility for them to say that reality was ever any other way.

One of the central reasons for the power and control of the government of 1984, or the Party, is that all its citizens practice a form of thought which constantly denies whatever the Party would find unorthodox. The citizens all work at being able to both remember and forget facts at a moment's notice based on how it would apply to their situation, and 'all that was needed was an unending series of victories over [their] own memory' (Orwell 35). Constantly switching out what is true for what the Party considers orthodox allows the citizens to keep their thoughts within the bounds set by the Party while also completing jobs which require knowledge which goes against what the Party considers fact. The training they receive in doublethink lets them know two contradictory facts and hold them both as true, such as knowing that the war

ravaging the world is unwinnable without using nukes from events while believing the Party propaganda that says the war is virtually over. The Party has various means by which it limited the ability of its citizens to deny the Party's facts, but these all relied on the subjects trained inability to not remember that things had ever been different. Although the Party relies on its citizens' habit of doublethink it doesn't fully trust in the individual, and so it constantly rewrote the past to match the present, such that after a change in war it would be 'impossible for any human being to prove by documentary evidence that the war with Eurasia had ever happened' (Orwell 183). The Party insures that its facts are what is considered true and trains its citizens to ignore the falsification that takes place even as they change the past, thus making it to where even if someone remembers something the Party considers unorthodox there is no evidence in print and all those that made the change claim that it was always that way. Due to the Party's followers' denial of past events anything may be taken as fact regardless of how outlandish it may be.

Reality finds substance in definite, but throughout the novel contradictory ideas are tied together so tight as to make them have no meaning. This contradictory mixing of opposites may be seen in various situations, such as the government buildings names, the Ministry of Truth, the Ministry of Peace, the Ministry of Love, and the Ministry of Plenty, as opposed to the aspects of government they handle, dispersing lies and changing the past, handling the continuous war and the news sent back, policing against general crime and dissident thought, and handling the nation's stunted economy, respectively. While it may be viewed as just a small ironic quirk for the ministries to have such misleading names the trend does not solely apply to them, as can be seen in the 'three slogans of the Party: War is Peace, Freedom is Slavery, Ignorance is Strength'

(Orwell 4, 16, 27, etc.). The citizens are surrounded by terms which, combined with their purpose, are oxymorons, such as memory holes for removing evidence of material to be completely destroyed, the language newspeak is the only language that shrinks as time goes on, by removing words with opposing meanings and keeping one of the opposites for prefixes to change the single meaning, the large number of 'Victory' products even though the rations are being lessened, calling all citizens 'comrades' even though everyone is constantly suspicious of everyone else, and the various misnomers found in the government. Many of the contrary policies of the Party are demonstrated in the Brotherhood's book, a book full of ideas by an underground group opposed to the Party, and it is later revealed in the Ministry of Love that the book was written by members of the inner party. The Party constantly weaves fact and fiction together seamlessly in all areas of their subjects' lives, allowing them to more easily manipulate how events and facts are perceived.

The Party indoctrinates the children into its ranks as mindless drones, dedicated to the point of fanaticism. The Party had groups for children to join which made them into eavesdropping little monsters which would denounce their own parents to the government for real or imagined crimes. Even though these groups turned the children into terrors for their parents and anyone they met, the training they received 'produced in them no tendency whatever to rebel against the discipline of the party' (Orwell 24). The children were taught to be loyal soldiers for the Party, and took to it with a passion, probably more so than the parents anticipated. The schools for the children all cement in them 'facts' about the party and all that it's done, all the while changing history, going from claiming the helicopter and 'a dozen years later, when Julia was at school, [the Party] was already claiming the airplane' (Orwell 153).

The Party rewrote history to make their contributions and durability since their revolution more inclusive, while the changes would go unnoticed due to the children believing everything that the Party teaches them. Since the Party continuously teaches the youth that the Party's power extends further and further back it allows the Party to gain more and more control over them, simply because they wouldn't know it had ever been different. The various groups that the children join to make them more dedicated to the party allow them to be shaped into senselessly believing anything the Party says and making sure that all around them do as well.

The Party manipulates reality by removing any evidence that the past was ever any different. Through constant manipulation of documents and their citizens' willingness to believe every word of the Party resistance of any momentum is essentially impossible. Repeatedly through the novel contradictions are accepted readily without the slightest pause, but when it comes to remembering what actually happened the members of the Party simply go along with what the Party says was true instead of what actually was. The Party exerts control over its' members at every point of their lives, from indoctrinating them as youths until their eventual death, either from vaporization or from simply no longer being of any use to the Party.