

Class Discussion: *The Modern Dystopia & 1984*

Roles: A. Researcher for Question #1 B. Researcher for Question #2
C. Speaker for Question #1 D. Speaker for Question #2

Essential questions:

- 1. How extensive are the similarities between the totalitarian government of Oceania and contemporary governments, including our own? What are those specific similarities?**
- 2. The world within which Winston lives is replete with contradictions. What role does contradiction serve in the novel?**

Researchers: Create 3 open-ended questions and provide notes (at least enough to fill the bullet points) for each question. Your notes and explanations within the group will be essential for the speakers to be successful.

1)

• >

• >

• >

• >

2)

• >

• >

• >

• >

3)

• >

• >

• >

• >

To help you prepare:

On 1984

Spend some time at <http://www.studentsfororwell.org/>, Students for an Orwellian Society. Keeping in mind that this site is supposed to be satirical—but that the events linked are all true—consider how contemporary society parallels that of Orwell’s fictitious Oceania.

Researchers:

You must introduce cited, credible research into your Socratic Seminar questions and/or responses. Please come prepared with a few pages of notes and research. You don’t need to cite in MLA format, but I will require the source title, the author and the date published and URL (if relevant) at a minimum. You will be expected to turn in these research notes at the end of the seminar for 20 possible points.

Speakers:

You will receive 20 points for meaningful, relevant participation and mediation during the Socratic Seminar. You will be expected to contribute during the session, and your participation will be scored holistically—**please do not assume that merely speaking means full credit!** If your performance is very much above average or very much below average, your grade will be adjusted accordingly on the 20 point scale.

Expectations of Participants in a Socratic Seminar

When I evaluate your Socratic Seminar participation, I will ask myself the following questions. Did they....

- Speak loudly and clearly?
- Cite reasons and evidence for their statements?
- Use the text to find support?
- Listen to others respectfully?
- Stick with the subject?
- Talk to each other, not just to the leader?
- Paraphrase accurately?
- Ask for help to clear up confusion?
- Support each other?
- Avoid hostile exchanges?
- Question others in a civil manner?
- Seem prepared?

Format:

Each group will discuss and select 1 question or statement based on essential question #1 and 1 question or statement based on essential question #2. Each group will present to the class on these. Speakers will serve as mediators for 3 minutes.