

Dear future Sophomore Honors Student,

Welcome to Honors English II! In preparation for our study of literature next year, I am including the following directions for your summer reading assignment. This summer you will be reading the *1984* by George Orwell and annotating as you read in order to complete a writing reflection.

George Orwell's *1984* is a dystopian novel which reveals the dangers of totalitarianism and the societal oppression associated with those regimes. Although this novel was published in 1949 during a post World War II environment, and was influenced by the oppressive reign of Hitler and Stalin, the concepts of lack of privacy and individualism are still relevant today.

This assignment will be **due on the first day** that you return to school. You will be submitting your work to Turnitin.com, so the answers must be your own. Plagiarism will result in a zero. Type your responses in 12-point Times New Roman font on a separate document, correctly numbering each answer. Respond in complete and grammatically correct sentences.

Instructions: Answer each question completely to receive full credit. Unless asked what *you* think, do not answer in first person. Some of the questions are open-ended and have many potential answers. As long as you support your answer with evidence from the text, you cannot be wrong. Remember, all responses must be written in complete and grammatically correct sentences.

1. What is the significance of the title?
2. Who is the protagonist of the book? Write a two-sentence description of him or her.
3. Identify a quote from the text that relates to that character and explain the connection.
4. What is the genre of the novel? What characteristics of that genre make *1984* fall into that category?
5. Choose a symbol from the novel and discuss.
6. Choose another symbol from the novel and discuss.
7. What is the narrative Point of View of *1984*? Why does it fall into this category?
8. Choose a theme from the novel and discuss.
9. Choose another theme from the novel and discuss.
10. In two or three sentences, describe the setting of *1984*.
11. Choose two quotes from Part One of the novel and analyze each by providing who is speaking, to whom (if anyone), and a two-sentence explanation of the passage. Cite the quote correctly in MLA style, providing the author's last name and page number. Example: (Orwell 45)
12. Choose two quotes from Part Two of the novel and analyze each by providing who is speaking, to whom (if anyone), and a two-sentence explanation of the passage. Cite the quote correctly in MLA style, providing the author's last name and page number. Example: (Orwell 45)
13. Choose two quotes from Part Three of the novel and analyze each by providing who is speaking, to whom (if anyone), and a two-sentence explanation of the passage. Cite the quote correctly in MLA style, providing the author's last name and page number. Example: (Orwell 45)
14. Identify an example of metaphor in the text. Your response should demonstrate your knowledge of the literary term.
15. Identify an example of simile in the text. Your response should demonstrate your knowledge of the literary term.
16. Identify an example of imagery in the text. Your response should demonstrate your knowledge of the literary term.
17. Identify an example of allusion in the text. Your response should demonstrate your knowledge of the literary term.
18. Identify an example of paradox in the text. Your response should demonstrate your knowledge of the literary term.

19. Analyze one of the contradictions that exists in the world in which Winston lives.

The following five questions are designed to elicit your personal interpretation of the text and should be a paragraph to two paragraphs in length.

20. What do you think Orwell is trying to warn his readership about?

21. Do you think Winston is a hero? Why or why not?

22. Make a connection between the party and “Big Brother” with things happening in our current society (nationally or globally).

23. Discuss the class system in the novel. How do you feel about it? How do you think that Orwell feels about it?

24. What is free thought? Is free thought different from free speech?

25. How can we ensure equal rights while protecting the individual?

Have a wonderful summer and enjoy the book! If you have any questions regarding the summer assignment, contact me at [ahodges@loyolaprep.org](mailto:ahodges@loyolaprep.org).