

COURSE TITLE: Advanced Placement English Language and Composition (**Grade 11**)

REQUIRED TEXT: *1984*

AUTHOR: George Orwell

GENRE: Science-Fiction

SUMMARY: *1984* (written in 1948 and published in 1949) represents Orwell's disturbing attempt to warn of the perils of totalitarianism. In Orwell's dark vision of the future, individuals possess no freedoms, no rights, and no privacy, as the prying "telescreens" of Big Brother occupy every corner of home and workplace. Though Orwell's apocalyptic dystopia did not come to pass in the year 1984, modern readers cannot help but notice how Orwell's admonitions ring true today.

REQUIRED STUDENT RESPONSE (DUE THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS):

Students may want to annotate and highlight the novel. In addition, students will complete an in-class timed write on this novel during the first two weeks of class for a major writing grade.

Select **ONE** of the following activities to complete for the first day of school:

1. Select a short excerpt from *1984* in which Orwell seems to warn future generations of impending dangers. Then, write a one-page interpretation of the significance of this passage. Please include a quotation from the novel (with MLA citation); pinpoint the main threat Orwell depicts in this passage; and explain how Orwell dramatizes this threat (e.g. through hyperbole, imagery, metaphor, detail, etc.). Be specific and utilize proper MLA parenthetical citation format.

2. During his final encounter with O'Brien, Winston argues that, if all else fails, the inherent nature of the individual—the "spirit of man"—is strong enough to undermine a society such as that created by The Party. Write a one-page response explaining whether you agree or disagree with this contention. Is Winston's belief applicable to the modern world? Can you cite examples in recent history that support or dismiss Winston's belief in the resiliency and righteousness of the human spirit? Be specific. Use proper MLA parenthetical citation format.

Note: Please create a Turnitin.com account if you do not already have one, and register with your AP Class. Class IDs and passwords can be found on your teacher's OnCourse website. Submit your summer reading responses to Turnitin.com by the first day of class.