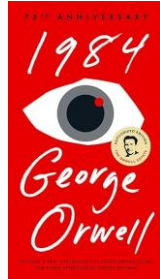


Providence Classical School

12th grade Rhetoric Summer Reading Assignment

1984 by George Orwell



[Here is the link to the book on Amazon](#)

Assignment: Essay Due August 4. Email to lsmole@pscvirginia.org

Read 1984 and write an essay choosing **one** of the following prompts. Develop a well-organized and supported essay including refutation. Essays will be assessed on ideas and evidence from the text, the organization of ideas, the word choice and vocabulary, and grammar and mechanics.

1. The world of Big Brother has three main slogans:

WAR IS PEACE

FREEDOM IS SLAVERY

IGNORANCE IS STRENGTH

These slogans seem to be paradoxical and contradictory on the surface, but in the world of Big Brother, they make a kind of sense. Could war abroad lead to peace at home? Could absolute freedom make you a slave to your own desires? Could knowing too much make you think more than act? Choose one of these slogans and explore what it means in 1984, using examples from the book. Then think about how the slogan might apply to our own society.

2. "Newspeak" is attempted by Big Brother to control thought by reducing the number of words in the language and eliminating words that might lead to "thoughtcrime," which is itself a Newspeak word. Is it possible to control thoughts through controlling language? Does our own society have similar tendencies? How does this compare to our definition of Rhetoric? Discuss examples of Newspeak in the novel and how this kind of control might function in our own society.

3. In *1984*, the nature and authenticity of Winston and Julia's love is complex and debatable. Their relationship begins as an act of rebellion against the Party. What is the nature and authenticity of their relationship? Is it true love? Do they share a genuine emotional and physical connection or is their love ultimately a means of resistance rather than a deep, authentic bond. How does the oppressive regime make it difficult to discern true love from political defiance? Discuss the authenticity of their love and explore how this could function in our own society.