

## E208

### Summer Reading Information

As a sophomore entering an E208 class in the fall, you will be responsible for completing several assignments. The text you will be required to read over the summer is *1984* by George Orwell. The assignments pertaining to this novel will be due very early in the school year so it is important that you are prepared come August. Please read through the information on this handout. If you have any questions over the summer, please contact Mrs. Serafini at [tserafini@d211.org](mailto:tserafini@d211.org) or Ms. Barrett at [jbarrett@d211.org](mailto:jbarrett@d211.org).

### **George Orwell's *1984***

1. Annotate (text-mark) the text for the following:

- Characteristics of a dystopian society (see attached handout)
  - Dictionary.com defines a dystopia as a "society characterized by human misery, as squalor, oppression, disease, and overcrowding"
- Literary devices (simile, metaphor, imagery, personification, symbolism, etc.)
- Themes (messages delivered by the author)
- Questions asked or connections made while reading

You will turn in your annotated text on Tuesday, August 15th.

**\*\*\*\*Annotating includes highlighting/underlining text and writing notes in the margin - points will not be given for highlighting text alone \*\*\*\***

2. Response Paper

After reading *1984*, your assignment is to write a response paper revolving around the novel. Choose **one** of the corresponding prompts, but the guidelines below must be followed:

- minimum of 2 pages typed (a minimum of 500 words)
- specific examples of text used to support an idea (minimum of 2 per body paragraph)
- proper internal documentation for each citation and Works Cited page (MLA Format)
- introduction, including a thesis statement
- conclusion

A) Although remarkably different on the surface, Orwell's *Animal Farm* and *1984* convey a similar theme. In a well constructed essay, discuss this common theme and the parallel elements Orwell utilizes in order to present this theme to his readers.

Use these questions to guide your response:

Keep in mind the idea of something being Orwellian (you may need to do some research). What does this term entail? What are common Orwellian moments in both works? How do the outcomes of both works express Orwell's hope for the future, or is there any hope in the face of Big Brother?

B) In a well constructed essay, discuss whether or not it is possible for an individual to hold on to his/her own sense of truth and values in the face of overwhelming pressure from the state and one's own peers.

Use these questions to guide your response:

How does Orwell answer this question in *1984*? Is Orwell asserting that all is lost and that we will be overwhelmed by "Big Brother," or is Winston's fate a rallying point for humankind?

This paper must be submitted by Tuesday, August 15th. Papers may be turned in earlier than this date; however, no papers will be accepted after the due date.

### 3. Objective Test

The objective test for the novel will be on Wednesday, August 16th.

### 4. Double-Entry Journal

While reading the novel, complete the double entry journal. You must have a minimum of 8 quotes from the novel. See attached directions and utilize the given template.

The double entry journal is due on Friday, August 18th.

## Dystopias: Definition and Characteristics

**Utopia:** A place, state, or condition that is ideally perfect in respect of politics, laws, customs, and conditions.

**Dystopia:** A futuristic, imagined universe in which oppressive societal control and the illusion of a perfect society are maintained through corporate, bureaucratic, technological, moral, or totalitarian control. Dystopias, through an exaggerated worst-case scenario, make a criticism about a current trend, societal norm, or political system.

### Characteristics of a Dystopian Society

- Propaganda is used to control the citizens of society.
- Information, independent thought, and freedom are restricted.
- A figurehead or concept is worshipped by the citizens of the society.
- Citizens are perceived to be under constant surveillance.
- Citizens have a fear of the outside world.
- Citizens live in a dehumanized state.
- The natural world is banished and distrusted.
- Citizens conform to uniform expectations. Individuality and dissent are bad.
- The society is an illusion of a perfect utopian world.

### Types of Dystopian Controls

Most dystopian works present a world in which oppressive societal control and the illusion of a perfect society are maintained through one or more of the following types of controls:

- Corporate control: One or more large corporations control society through products, advertising, and/or the media. Examples include *Minority Report* and *Running Man*.
- Bureaucratic control: Society is controlled by a mindless bureaucracy through a tangle of red tape, relentless regulations, and incompetent government officials. Examples in film include *Brazil*.
- Technological control: Society is controlled by technology—through computers, robots, and/or scientific means. Examples include *The Matrix*, *The Terminator*, and *I, Robot*.
- Philosophical/religious control: Society is controlled by philosophical or religious ideology often enforced through a dictatorship or theocratic government.

### The Dystopian Protagonist

- often feels trapped and is struggling to escape.
- questions the existing social and political systems.
- believes or feels that something is terribly wrong with the society in which he or she lives.
- helps the audience recognize the negative aspects of the dystopian world through his or her perspective.

## Double Entry Journal Directions

Choose a quotation - any passage from the text - that seems significant.

Copy the quotation exactly as it appears onto the left side of your table; place it in quotation marks and include the page number (MLA internal citation).

Choose a minimum of 8 quotations from the novel.

Write your response to the quotation. You may choose to discuss the author's use of language. How does he convey his ideas? Who is his intended audience and what is his purpose? What are the literary/rhetorical techniques he uses to accomplish his purpose? Is he successful? How does the passage contribute to the central meaning of the text? What themes are being conveyed? Choose 1-2 of these questions to answer per response - your responses should include critical analysis.

The double entry journal must demonstrate that you have carefully read and understood the book. Do not simply summarize; you must analyze and evaluate.

Each of your response entries should be approximately 100-300 words.

EXAMPLE

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Summer Reading Double Entry Journal

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Book Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Significant Quotes	Analysis
<p>“Words mean more than what is set down on paper. It takes the human voice to infuse them with shades of deeper meaning” (Angelou 34).</p>	<p>Angelou is commenting on her craft and on how her work only becomes meaningful when it is filtered with the deeper meaning offered by multiple perspectives. The audience is undefined therefore allowing the quote to be applicable to all readers. Additionally, the human voice is <b>personified</b> which adds a unifying sense to this quotation. We are all in this together to share literature and create meaning from it. Like any art form, literature is meant to be devoured and appreciated. It is given depth of color and dynamism through its audience. Also, the words “infuse” and “deeper” provide the nature of the literature; it becomes so much a part of who we are that the words and our souls are inextricable.</p>

Significant Quotes	Analysis

Significant quotes, events, ideas, or concepts	Connections

Significant quotes, events, ideas, or concepts	Connections