

NAME: _____



Activity One

Research, Compare and Compose

The novel *Nineteen Eighty-Four* was written by George Orwell and published in 1949. The book depicts a dystopian future where all of the United Kingdom, North and South America, southern Africa, and Australia are ruled by the ideology of English Socialism or INGSOC.

Big Brother acts as the face of the Party, which monitors citizens constantly and dictates how Party members live their lives. This authoritarian government includes four ministries: The Ministry of Plenty, the Ministry of Truth, the Ministry of Peace, and the Ministry of Love.

The book was published 35 years before the actual year 1984. Your task in this bonus activity will be to research the year 1984 and compare it to the book.

Is there anything the book got right about 1984? What did the book get wrong? This portion should describe any differences and similarities that you find and should be about 200 words in length.

Next, think about how our world might change in the next 35 years. In about 300 words, describe how you think the world might change. Describe how things like computers, the Internet, travel, world population, and food might affect people's lives 35 years in the future.



Indira Gandhi



Discovery Space Shuttle



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Activity Two

Movie/Book Review



Now that you've completed reading *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, it's time to express your opinions on it.

In a review of no less than 700 words, examine the book in some depth, but don't spoil the ending for those reading your review.

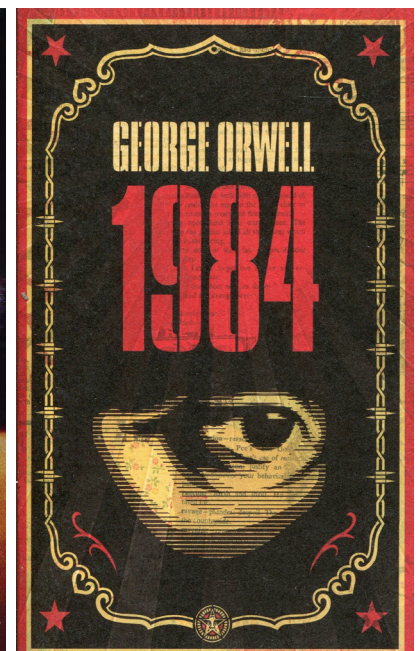
Set up the major characters from the book, and set the scene (year, time, geographical location).

Be sure to make the review entertaining and be as critical or complimentary as you wish. Give some examples of things you liked about the book and some things you didn't like. If you didn't like anything about the book, describe in detail why. Advise readers/watchers whether they should avoid reading the book/watching the movie or whether they should jump at the chance to read/watch it.

Name your favorite character or least favorite character and why you liked or didn't like their thoughts, actions, or motivations.

Provide a bit of detail on the price (book or movie), length (book or movie), and identify the appropriate readership (toddler, young adult, etc.).

Finally, come up with your own grading scale—like star ratings for movies—and rate the book/movie based on your scale. Make sure you provide a short description of your grading scale at the end of the review, followed by the rating you give to the book/movie.



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Activity Three

Board Game



Throughout *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, Winston Smith must make choices and is constantly trying to ensure his actions aren't uncovered by the Party who are always watching through telescreens, which cannot be shut off.

Winston is on a path that he expects will ultimately lead to his death. Use these themes of surveillance and avoiding detection as a starting point for the creation of a new board game based on the novel. Any of the ideas, themes, motifs, and settings presented in *Nineteen Eighty-Four* can be used to create the board game.

It could be a strategic game, a trivia game using information from the story, or any other sort you desire. The type of board game is entirely up to you. Be creative.

Get together in groups of three or four and brainstorm a plan for your game. Together, draft a set of rules, design, and build a game board, or whatever else your game requires.

Be creative, but be sure to include characters, themes, and settings from the book in some way. Once you've finished creating your game, switch with another group and play each other's games.



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Activity Four

Exalting Big Brother

Imagine you have just been installed as the leader of a new committee within the Ministry of Truth. Your first task in this role is to come up with a new commercial that will promote the values of INGSOC as well as sell the virtues and excellence of Big Brother. This commercial will be broadcast to all the people of Oceania through their telescreens.

Since you are in charge, you get to decide how to shoot the commercial, and you get to write the script. You can be as creative as you wish for the commercial, so long as it holds true to the values of INGSOC and Big Brother as presented in the book.

For the script, you will research and execute the proper screenplay format. You may want to be a bit creative. You can add "Director's Notes" highlighted in red, to signal the actor to move or to speak in a specific way. For example:

EXT.

MINISTRY OF TRUTH- Day

**A party member
exits the ministry
building and scans
area, spotting a poster
of Big Brother.**

**(Director's Note: The party member
must look happy and glorify Big Brother)**

VOICE OF BIG BROTHER

**Hello Comrade. Remember, I'm
always watching.**

PARTY MEMBER

**I love you, Big
Brother.**

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Activity Five

Alternate Ending



At the end of *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, Winston realizes that after all he had been through, O’Brien was right—he loves Big Brother. Winston has ceased to loathe the Party and no longer has any feelings for Julia. He remembers betraying her, remembers loving her, but now both she and he have changed. The Party goes on.

For some, this can be a hopeless ending. Is it what you thought it was going to be? Did you expect Winston and Julia to be able to withstand the torture and continue to love one another? Is there anything you wished had happened instead? How would you have ended the story?

In this activity, your task will be to rewrite the ending. You will come up with your own conclusion to the story. You can be as creative as you wish with your ending, as long as you try your best to stay within the writing style and themes that were presented in the book.

You can choose where you want to start your ending—either before Winston enters Room 101, or after he is released from the ministry. The choice is yours. Use your imagination to come up with an alternate ending to the story that concludes Winston and Julia’s journey.

Your alternate ending can include new settings, new characters or anything else you want.

Your final product should be two typed, double-spaced pages in length. Your ending should comment on how Winston has changed or been affected by his experiences.



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Activity Six

INGSOC-ing the News



Choose a news source—online, newspaper, radio, or television—and select one story that has a national or international impact. It can be any type of story you wish, so long as it affects a significant area (i.e. local news stories affect only people who live in your city/town). Make sure the story is also of a sufficient length so that you have some material to work with.

In this activity, your task will be to take your current news story and alter it in the same fashion as the Ministry of Truth as presented in *Nineteen Eighty-Four* might. That can mean deleting names of people who are now unpersons, changing amounts or dollar figures of goods, downplaying any damage or risk or any impact to your country (which will stand in for Oceania), etc.

The changes should be made in the same manner as the ministry from the book. Essentially, you will be performing Winston's job. Keep track of any changes you make to the story so that they can be referenced and cross-checked with the original.

Once you've finished altering your story, write a couple of paragraphs discussing the changes you made and what influenced the changes. Explain your reasoning—how did you decide what to omit, add, or change?

Be sure to keep a copy of the original story and the list of changes you made so that you can compare. Get together as a class and discuss some of the various stories that were chosen and how they were changed.

