For this assignment I will:

- write a 1000-1500 word essay
- research secondary evidence
- follow MLA Guidelines
- meet the deadlines for all process work

The essay questions for 1984 have been outlined for you below. Select one and begin to brainstorm all possible answers using direct evidence from the novel. The answer for this question will be the basis of your “working thesis”, an argument that you have created. From here, you will research evidence from the novel and secondary sources to make your arguments more persuasive. Use your research to support what you are saying – but do not let it speak for you. Remember, it is your writing "voice" that must be heard.

### Process Work

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Process Work</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Choose an essay question</td>
<td>Thursday, March 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Brainstorm answers for your question ideas do you have about it already?</td>
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<tr>
<td>What do you need to find out? Fill a page with notes. This will be the</td>
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<td>platform for your research. (Brainstorm will be ongoing as we read the</td>
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<td>novel)</td>
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<td>3. Develop a “working thesis” using the answers from your brainstorm.</td>
<td>Monday, March 30th</td>
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<td>4. Decide on your three sub-arguments.</td>
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<td>5. Select direct quotations from George Orwell’s 1984 to support your</td>
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<td>three sub-arguments</td>
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<td>6. Identify the areas you will need to research. Find 3 secondary source</td>
<td>Wednesday, April 1st</td>
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<tr>
<td>articles and complete the Chart in the Research Guide below.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Create Essay Outline</td>
<td>Friday, April 10th</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. Complete Essay Draft #1 and submit to Ms. Minor for feedback</td>
<td>Monday, April 13th</td>
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<tr>
<td>9. Proofread and edit essay. Meet with Ms. Minor or any English teacher</td>
<td>Tuesday, April 14 to Friday, April 17th</td>
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<td>in Student Success for final advice and feedback</td>
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<tr>
<td>10. Complete Final Essay for submission</td>
<td>Monday, April 20th</td>
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### 1984: Suggested Essay Topics

#### Surveillance and Psychological Manipulation

1. Discuss the omnipresent posters of Big Brother in terms of his physical appearance as well as the phrase “Big Brother Is Watching You.” What does the caption imply about the society in which Winston Smith lives? What are some other omnipresent forces and what are their effects on the citizens of Oceania?

2. Discuss the three party slogans and what each statement implies about this society. What does the public’s easy acceptance of these mottos suggest about the populace?

3. Examine the ways in which the Party makes itself stronger by influencing the youth of Oceania. Discuss the daily lives of the Parsons’ children. What are their favorite games? How do they like to dress? What seems to be their attitude toward thoughtcrime?

#### Hope and Coping Mechanisms

1. Discuss Winston’s need to continue his diary despite the obvious implications of capture and punishment.

2. Explore Winston’s attempts to hold on to the past. For example, tell why his conversation with the old man only increases his frustrations. What does the upstairs room at Charrington’s shop mean to Winston? Why does he buy the paperweight? How might this action be interpreted symbolically?

3. Orwell makes use of several symbols, especially those occurring in Winston’s dream of the Golden Country. List and explain the common elements in the dream and in Winston and Julia’s first sexual encounter. Focus especially on the landscape, the girl’s gesture, and the thrush as symbols. How are they symbols of hope?
4. Explain how the establishment of a relationship between Winston and Julia has many levels of meaning—personal, political, etc.

5. What effect does the book have on Winston? What does he learn from reading it? What is the unanswered question? What does he learn about himself?

6. What is Julia’s interest in the book? In view of the way Orwell has developed her character, are you surprised by her reaction? Why or why not?

7. Discuss Winston’s reaction to the peasant woman’s song. What is ironic about its source? What additional qualities of the peasant woman does Winston admire?

8. As the novel progresses, we see several physical changes in Winston. Describe these changes, and explain why Orwell believes they are happening. Contrast these changes and Winston’s overall delight in the affair with the increasing mood of hatred as the preparations for Hate Week continue.

9. Orwell interweaves the themes of betrayal and hope in this critical chapter (Part 2, Chapter 7). Discuss how Winston has arrived at his conclusion that the hope for the future lies in the proles. What has Winston learned about universal human emotions from his dreams? What belief dominates Winston and Julia’s belief that they will not betray one another?

**Totalitarian Control / Appearance vs. Reality**
1. Discuss the function of the Ministry of Truth. What is ironic about its title? Explain what Winston does there and how he feels about his work. Explain how the creation of Comrade Ogilvy supports the Party motto.

2. The Party’s influence on marriage and family life has been profound. What is the Party’s official position on marriage and children? To what extent have the characters (Katharine, Winston, Julia etc…) been affected by this position?

3. Orwell has placed major emphasis on the character of Julia in this chapter. Evaluate her statement that she is “not clever.” What evidence refutes this statement? What does Julia’s position on Party doctrine reveal? How does this position contrast with Winston’s views? Contrast Winston’s and Julia’s attitudes toward Party doctrine, rebellion, and Big Brother. Tell why it is unlikely that Winston and Julia will ever successfully rebel.

4. How Winston so easily accepts O’Brien as a political conspirator is a problem for readers who accept his intelligence and intuitiveness. Analyze the reasons for Winston’s willingness to believe in O’Brien. What details imply that O’Brien is not what he seems? Discuss the implications of the recurring phrase “place where there is no darkness,” versus O’Brien’s statement that Winston will “always be in the dark.”

5. Explain what Orwell is saying about the power-hungry through O’Brien. What character traits does O’Brien possess? Why does he claim to enjoy talking to Winston? Why do you think he allows Winston to question him?

6. Man’s inhumanity to his fellow man is a central element of the theme as the effects of Winston’s torture begin to make themselves known. What does O’Brien tell Winston about the history behind man’s suffering? What is the foundation of the Party’s philosophy?

7. Room 101 as a symbol for what. In what way do the events occurring in Room 101 relate to the concept of the mind as a shaper of reality? Discuss fear and the effects it can have on an individual.

8. What is the overall message that Orwell is trying to convey about totalitarianism in his novel 1984.
Research Guide

Secondary sources must be from a valid, academic source. Your teacher will provide guidelines identifying what makes a secondary source “academic”. A level 4 essay should cite evidence from 3 or more secondary sources.

1) **Raw, theoretical explanations** so the reader can understand the knowledge behind your concept. For example, if your concept is domestic abuse, you can research people’s theories and observations about this criminal behavior.

2) **Statistical data** that supports the concept which is presented in your thesis. Statistics are persuasive based on logical and scientific evidence. It is very powerful.

3) **Current issues or events** that have occurred in recent history are a great way to show to your reader why your topic is relevant and important for them to read.

Use the template below to help organize your research (you do not want to have to re-research everything in order to write your list of Works Cited.

The secondary sources should be accesses either via the TC Library website, including its online databases, or **current news events**. Be sure to record all information on the form below so you do not have to find them again later.

| This is the date I accessed the resource: |
| This is the title of the resource: |
| This is the topic of the resource: |
| This is the author of the resource: |
| This is more specific information about how to access the resource (URL, ISBN, publication information, etc.): |
| These are points and ideas that I think are interesting, connected or relevant to my essay: |

<p>| Page # |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Level 1 (50%-59%)</th>
<th>Level 2 (60%-69%)</th>
<th>Level 3 (70%-79%)</th>
<th>Level 4 (80%-100%)</th>
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</table>
| **Knowledge & Understanding**  
Understands Novel and Literary Elements (Plot, Character, Conflict, Themes, Paradox/Irony, Setting/Atmosphere) | -knowledge of the novel and literary elements are very limited | -knowledge of the novel and literary elements are somewhat limited | -knowledge of the novel and literary elements is sufficient | -knowledge of the novel and literary elements is exceptional |
| **Thinking**  
Thesis  
Supporting Evidence from the novel  
Arguments (explanation of how textual evidence supports thesis) | -my thesis is unclear or not arguable  
-my evidence does little to support my thesis  
-my arguments are flawed and therefore do not support my thesis | -subject of my paper is clear, but my thesis needs clarification  
-my evidence somewhat supports my thesis  
-my arguments are somewhat flawed and therefore only partially support my thesis | -my thesis is coherent and arguable  
-my evidence sufficiently supports my thesis  
-my arguments are well-constructed and therefore support my thesis sufficiently | -my thesis clearly expresses a deep insight into the texts  
-my evidence always supports my thesis and my selections are exceptional  
-my arguments are extremely well-constructed and therefore exceptionally support my thesis |
| **Communication**  
Essay Organization  
Clarity of Writing and Expression of Ideas | -my essay contains several organizational problems  
-my writing contains many errors. They cause the expression of my thesis and arguments to be weak | -my essay contains one or two organizational problems  
-my writing contains some errors. They sometimes detract from the expression of my thesis and arguments | -I have followed the basic essay format and have no significant organizational issues  
-my writing contains very few errors. They never detract from the expression of my thesis and arguments | -my essay structure has an excellent flow with a great introduction, body and conclusion  
-my writing contains no errors. They never detract from the expression of my thesis and arguments |
| **Application**  
MLA  
Secondary Source Research | -my essay contains frequent, basic citations/MLA format errors.  
I have used 0 to 1 secondary source article that do not effectively support my thesis. Connections are unclear. | -my essay contains some improper citations/MLA format errors  
I have used 1-2 secondary source articles that sometimes support my thesis. Connections are often unclear. | -my MLA citations and formatting are done correctly most of the time  
I have used 2-3 secondary source articles that adequately support my thesis. Connections to thesis are mostly clear. | -my essay contains very few to no errors in MLA citations or formatting  
I have used 3+ secondary source articles that strongly support my thesis. Connections to thesis are very clearly explained. |

**COMMENTS:**