

# 1984: Alternative Dystopian Research Paper Assignment

## Overview:

**Directions:** You will read the novel **1984** and write a multi- source researched argument on one of the four topics suggested, according to the criteria below:

### **Topic #1**

The theme of betrayal is a dominant thread running throughout this novel. Give examples of characters and events that contribute to Winston's final self-betrayal. Make it clear that these examples intensify the novel's overall mood of loneliness and alienation.

### **Topic #2**

Orwell uses the recurrent motif of the dream to reveal background, develop character, and foreshadow key events. Analyze these dreams for their implications.

### **Topic #3**

That 1984 is a satire on totalitarian states such as Hitler's Germany and Stalin's Russia and a warning to the West is one of the commonly accepted interpretations of the novel. Prove that this is so by showing that Orwell did create a complete, repressive totalitarian state in Oceania.

### **Topic #4**

The paperweight Winston purchases at Charrington's shop takes on several meanings before its final destruction during Winston's arrest. Explain Winston's motive for buying the paperweight as well as its symbolic interpretation as it changes throughout the novel.

## **Content Requirements:**

1. Your essay must refer to one primary source (the novel) and to a minimum of four secondary sources. Each secondary source must be cited in the paper at least once.
2. Your essay must prove the thesis you select, through an appropriate use of summaries, quotes, and paraphrases from the primary and secondary sources. Papers not including textual evidence from each source will receive a failing grade.
3. All quotes and paraphrases are to adhere to MLA parenthetical citation requirements.
4. Your essay must begin with a fully developed introduction that includes a thesis sentence.
5. Your essay must end with a fully developed conclusion.
6. Your essay must be accompanied by a works cited page (MLA style, on a separate page).
7. The topics provided are ones in which you can write a substantial analytical paper. They are designed to test your understanding of major themes and details from the novel as a whole.

## **Format Requirements:**

1. Your paper is to be 5-7 pages long (double spaced 12 pt. Times New Roman font; not including works cited page and heading)
2. Your paper is to be meticulously prepared using MLA format throughout.

## **What you will submit and assignment due dates:**

1. A detailed outline of your final research paper including a reference page with at least four secondary sources that you will use in your research paper Stapled and appropriately labeled final draft of your research paper. Due April 24 (B) or April 25 (B).
2. Stapled and appropriately labeled rough draft of your research paper. (Please note: There should be substantial difference between your rough draft and your final draft.) Due May 2(B) or May 3(A).
3. Stapled and appropriately labeled final draft of your research paper- Due May 6 (B) and May 7 (A)
4. The grading rubric.

\* Do not include a cover page and do not turn in your work in a folder.

**\*\*Plagiarism will result in a failing grade for the quarter!**

## 1984: Alternative Dystopian Research Paper Rubric

### Essay Evaluation: Part 1: The Argument (Value: 75 percent of your final grade derives from these criteria.)

\_\_\_\_ / 3      Components: The topic is appropriate to the assignment,. A well-developed introduction engages the reader and creates interest; the thesis sets tone and direction for remainder of paper well; the conclusion effectively wraps up and goes beyond restating the introduction.

\_\_\_\_ / 3      Organization: The writer's points have a distinct structure that grows out of the thesis, and the paper contains no digressions.

\_\_\_\_ / 3      Development: The writer develops the argument in a substantial way, relating it in depth, in detail and with creativity. The argument is developed with consistent and effective point of view. The essay conveys a sense of completeness appropriate to the assignment.

\_\_\_\_ / 3      Style: The writer chooses words carefully for rhetorical effect. In addition, the writer demonstrates careful revision through mature diction, thoughtful phrasing, avoidance of passive voice, and the appropriate use of transitions. The writing is smooth, skillful, concise and coherent. Sentences are strong and expressive with varied structure and length. Diction is appropriate for audience.

\_\_\_\_ / 3      Mechanics, Grammar, Punctuation: The writer uses only Standard American English, avoiding major grammar errors or an distracting accumulation of minor errors.

\_\_\_\_ / 15      = Numerical equivalent of \_\_\_\_ /100 for this section, X 75% = \_\_\_\_ :  
=====      contribution of Part 1 toward final grade.

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### Essay Evaluation: Part 2: MLA Format (Value: 25 percent of your final grade derives from these criteria.)

\_\_\_\_ / 3 Internal citation

\_\_\_\_ / 3 Works cited page

\_\_\_\_ / 3 Heading, header, pagination, title, spacing, margins

\_\_\_\_ / 9      = Numerical equivalent of \_\_\_\_ /100 for this section, X 25% = \_\_\_\_ :  
=====      contribution of Part 2 toward final grade.