

**Honors English III
Norwalk High School
2018 Required Summer Reading**

*Extra credit for all
other incoming
grade 11 students

The following directions explain your summer reading expectations. Additionally, you will use this assignment to help prepare for a graded assessment when school begins.

Assigned Text: *1984* by George Orwell

Introduction to 1984: How would you feel if you knew the government was watching your every move? And not only are they watching, but they are waiting for you to do something “wrong,” because if you do, they can make you “disappear.”

1984 is the story of Winston who lives in a dystopian world. The government, known as Big Brother, makes it their priority to monitor as many people as possible. Not only is Winston threatened by the government’s suppression, but he actually participates in the concealing of truth. One day, he decides he will no longer be controlled by a *Totalitarian government, and *1984* is the story of his rebellion.

George Orwell published this novel in 1949 shortly after the end of World War II. He was concerned with how democracy was threatened by the manipulation of information by opposing governments. This historical background is essential in understanding the themes of *1984* and his social commentary.

***Totalitarianism:** “A form of government that theoretically permits no individual freedom and that seeks to subordinate all aspects of individual life to the authority of the state” (*Encyclopedia Britannica*).

The Process:

Task # 1: Analysis of the Text

- a) As you read *1984* carefully and critically, use post-its to note important or revealing passages that discuss where language is used as an oppressive weapon that conceals truth and the ability to live freely.
- b) Only when you have completed the novel will you review all the passages you have identified and select nine (9) passages/quotes that best illustrate how language is used as a weapon and leads to the loss of individualism. These passages must span the course of the novel. Complete the “Triple Entry Notebook” (see reverse for a template) by analyzing nine (9) important quotes from the text.
- c) Select one *additional* quote, entitled, “The Quote of the Novel.” This quote must encompass the true meaning or message of the novel *for you*. “The Quote of the Novel” will be your last entry of your “Triple Entry Notebook.” In your analysis, explain how this passage is the one perfect quote from the novel and how it demonstrates an important message from Orwell.

Note: This means, in total, you will have 10 passages once you are finished. Your quote CANNOT BE: “Big Brother is Watching You” or the final sentence of the book. Think deeply before making your selection.

Task # 2: Reflection of Learning

Lastly, you will compose a reflective letter about reading this novel and the process of creating your "Triple Entry Notebook." Discuss the new observations and insights you gained, and explain *why* you ultimately made the passage selections that you did. This rationale should take into consideration the below ideas and should be at least a one page in length.

- Explain the significance of your 10 selections and your approach to the assignment
- Tell me what you worked on the hardest or struggled with in doing this assignment
- Share with me *what* you think you did well and *why* you met with success
- Discuss what you as a reader and writer need to improve moving forward
- Explore what value, besides entertainment, this book has in today's modern world

Your reflective letter is your chance to "talk" with me about your experiences in completing this assignment. With your letter, make me see your work – and your learning – through your eyes.

Reminders:

All work must be completely yours and yours alone; do not use any resources, other than the text itself, to help you. I want to know what YOU observed while reading the novel, not what someone else (online or otherwise) noted. All work should be done *independently*. Do not do your work with a classmate! Any of these infractions will result in a zero.

The above assignment must accompany you to class on the first day. All work must be typed and edited.

If you have any questions, please try and contact me before the end of the year. You can email me at kellyan@norwalkps.org.

Name

Honors English III

Date

Triple Entry Notebook

<p><u>Quote</u></p> <p>First, provide a lead-in sentence which provides contextual information for your selected quote. After citing the quote, include the page number.</p>	<p><u>Analysis</u></p> <p>How does this quote illustrate that language is used as a weapon and leads to the loss of individualism?</p>	<p><u>Peer Response</u></p> <p>You will be expected to extend your initial analysis and contribute a more in-depth response when we return.</p> <p><i>(Note: Leave this column blank)</i></p>