

Note to instructor: the following document is an in-class writing assignment to start off the unit. Project it for the class. You may have them write for whatever period of time you find appropriate. I generally follow the in-class writing with a discussion of what they have written.

Anticipation Quick Write

Eric Blair, using the pen name, George Orwell, published *1984* in 1949. Based on the publication date alone, what might be some thematic influences on the novel? In other words, what might be some of Orwell's primary issues?

***1984* has had a huge impact on the English language. What terms or ideas from the novel, or the writer, are you already familiar with?**

***1984*, along with *Brave New World*, is a dystopian novel. The word dystopia is a play on the word, Utopia, which means "no place" or "good place." What might be the point of writing a dystopian novel? What purpose would a writer have in setting a narrative in a terrible place or time? Consider some recent dystopias: *V for Vendetta*, *The Giver*, *Children of Men*, *Minority Report*, *The Planet of the Apes*, and *The Matrix*.**