

## 1984 Final Essay

As part of your English final, you will choose one of the following prompts to write a multi-paragraph *persuasive* or *argumentative* essay based on the novel 1984 by George Orwell. The first step is to read the prompt carefully, and determine what the thesis statement will be for your essay.

Because this is an argumentative, or persuasive, essay, you must incorporate the following elements:

- a clear claim
- strong arguments
- anticipation of reader concerns/objections (if applicable)
- counterarguments or rebuttals to the objections

Also, incorporate rhetorical devices such as appeal to logic (logos) ethos (ethics) and pathos (emotion)

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Topic #1

### **Freedom Vs Security**

In the novel 1984, freedom is nonexistent. The novel paints a bleak picture of a totalitarian government that controls all its citizens through methods of surveillance and mind control. Could Orwell's vision of the future become a reality in this country?

To address this prompt, use the novel to support your arguments, as well as additional articles depending on the argument you are defending. Refer to my website [www.msanaknudsens.weebly.com](http://www.msanaknudsens.weebly.com) for additional articles.

Articles that support the claim that Orwell's vision could become a reality:

- "The Geeks Who Leak"
- "Court Case asks if 'Big Brother' is spelled GPS"
- "How Companies Learn Your Secrets"

You may also refer to your own research, such as articles or news stories about privacy concerns regarding government.

Articles that support the claim that Orwell's vision could NOT become a reality

- "Why 2012, despite privacy fears, isn't like Orwell's 1984"
- "Simpler Terms; If It's 'Orwellian,' It's probably not"

Use quotes from the articles to add support to your arguments, as part of logos, or logical appeal. You may use your own belief system as part of ethos.

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## **Topic #2**

### **Historical Context**

Does George Orwell's dystopian version of the world reflect his historical reality? To what extent are the events in the 1940's depicted in the novel 1984?

To address this prompt, use the novel to support your arguments, as well as additional articles and resources. Refer to my website [msanaknudsens.weebly.com](http://msanaknudsens.weebly.com) for the following articles and resources that may help you with this prompt:

- 1984 Historical Background Powerpoint Presentation
- "Indoctrinating Youth"
- "Boy Witnessed Years of Death, Destruction"

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## **Topic #3**

### **Winston and Julia's Love**

Was Winston and Julia's love true? To what extent did their relationship reflect the theme that love is stronger than fear?

To address this prompt, you must provide at least three examples from the novel that support your claim. You must address a reader concern or objection to your position, and use rhetorical devices to strengthen your position, such as logos, ethos and pathos.

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## **Topic #4**

### **A Novel of Despair?**

Is 1984 truly a novel of despair, or does the author allow some glimmers of hope for the future?

To address this prompt, you must provide at least three examples from the novel that support your claim. You must address a reader concern or objection to your position, and use rhetorical devices to strengthen your position, such as logos, ethos and pathos.