

Senior Seminar 2011 – 2012: Reading/writing assignment

MacLean/Zack and Castaldo/Glatte

Read George Orwell's *1984*, including the Appendix ("The Principles of Newspeak"). Then write a 3 – 4 page response to the novel. Your response must focus on all of the following topics:

- The relationship between language and political power and the role both play in *1984*.
- The relationship between the individual and society in *1984*.
- Orwell's use of symbolism and imagery.

You must include details from the novel, but must also express the ideas, insights, and opinions that you are forming about these topics. Speak as yourself to others who have read the book but are also just forming their own opinions and insights about the novel. You may address the three topics separately or over the course of your response.

IMPORTANT NOTE: We expect you to write your response without "having the answers" or being "right" about your insights. It can be tempting to check your understanding by looking at study guides like *Spark Notes*, but **do not use such materials** even to reassure yourself. Write from your own reading and thinking about the novel.

Type the above response on regular paper, double spaced, 1-inch margins on ALL sides. Include your name and the date (single-spaced) on the first page, followed by your response.

You will be asked to read aloud your 3 – 4 page writing in small groups (teacher-created) on the first day of class.

Criteria for evaluation:

Reminder: Don't go crazy. This is not a formally structured paper; it's a thoughtful response. We will be looking for and grading your writing based on what we find of the following:

- Expresses your ideas, insights, and opinions
- Demonstrates your knowledge of important details and passages as well as the extent to which those details and passages illustrate your own ideas and beliefs.
- Addresses the three topics (described above)
- Does not fall short of 3 pages or exceed 4 pages
- Is completed and turned in on time (by the first class meeting) and adheres to the above specifications