

AP English Literature and Composition (Denise Campbell & Brendan Powers)

Read *1984*, by George Orwell.

You don't have any specific discussion questions to complete, but please read the novel critically, making notes as you read.

A few ideas of what to look out for:

- newspeak, doublethink, ingsoc: be able to define these terms
- Winston Smith, Julia, O'Brien: be prepared to discuss their characters in depth
- themes: which do you note in this novel? What main ideas is Orwell trying to get across?
- political views: both liberals and conservatives point to this book as support for their political beliefs. Can you find evidence to support both camps? Can you find any ideas in the book that would make liberals or conservatives uncomfortable?
- privacy issues: this novel introduced the concept of Big Brother—that is, the prospect that the government intruded on every aspect of a citizen's private life. My generation thinks that your generation is crazy for posting every aspect of your activities and opinions online. Are you nervous about who might be checking up on you? Should the government be allowed to read private emails and listen to phone calls? Be prepared to give your opinion.

You've been assigned only one novel in the hope that you will choose other works to read for pleasure.

As your parents will be told at Back to School Night, if you're not a reader you'll probably never receive an "A" on an essay in the class.

Reading teaches you how to construct sentences that flow together smoothly; it builds your grammar and vocabulary; it helps build your concentration.

Put away the video games and read something. Science fiction, horror, fantasy, true crime, espionage, biographies: find some titles that interest you and get started.

You should be shooting for a minimum of half an hour a day of pleasure reading.