

1984 JOURNAL TOPIC CHOICES FOR ENTRIES 1-3

The following writing prompts all relate to what we've read so far in 1984, and offer an opportunity for you to consider how the book relates to our own times. Pick any **THREE** of the following writing prompts to write about. If you choose to *handwrite* them, each of your three responses should take up approximately the front of a sheet of paper (please feel free to make them longer, though!). If you type them, each should be approximately one page long when double-spaced (assuming that a heading is included). **STAPLE ALL THREE OF YOUR JOURNAL ENTRIES TOGETHER BEFORE TURNING THEM IN!**

- 1.) "Who controls the past controls the future. Who controls the present controls the past." Explain what this quotation from the book means, both in the context of the novel and in present day.

- 2.) Reflect on one or both of these two quotations from other writings by George Orwell:

 "Political language... is designed to make lies sound truthful and murder respectable, and to give an appearance of solidity to pure wind."

 "But if thought corrupts language, language can also corrupt thought. A bad usage can spread by tradition and imitation, even among people who should know better."

- 3.) "Power is not a means, it is an end. One does not establish a dictatorship in order to safeguard a revolution; one makes the revolution in order to safeguard a dictatorship. The object of persecution is persecution. The object of torture is torture. The object of power is power." Relate this quotation to any 20th or 21st century government (ex: Nazi Germany; North Korea today; Egypt, Libya, and/or Tunisia during the Arab Spring, etc.)

- 4.) Explain how each of the three paradoxical party slogans (WAR IS PEACE / FREEDOM IS SLAVERY / IGNORANCE IS STRENGTH) can be rationalized. As a twist, do this from a modern American perspective.

EACH ENTRY IS WORTH 15 POINTS (10 for content & organization, 5 for mechanics/usage/grammar), FOR A TOTAL OF 45 POINTS.