



Oklahoma Christian School
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Summer Reading Assignment: English IV

English IV is designed to teach you to read and write at a college level. Using a diverse selection of literature, you will spend time learning to read, interpret, and analyze authors' arguments and techniques. You will write essays, interpreting, analyzing, and critiquing the authors and their works. This summer's assignment is designed to start you reading literature independently, and drawing meaningful, well supported conclusions about the author's intentions.

1. Read George Orwell's *1984*, and use sticky notes to track the following three things:
 - a. Winston Smith's development as a character: his motives, values, and perspective towards the government of Oceania.
 - b. The narrator's description of the inner-workings of The Party and political life in Oceania. How do The Party's ideas about truth contrast with Christian values?
 - c. Important symbolism in the novel: objects, events, or characters who are designed to have multiple meanings to them.
2. After you've read *1984*, write a hand-written essay answering the following prompt:

Describe Winston's character as it relates to his attitude toward the Party. In what ways might his fatalistic streak contribute to his ultimate downfall? And how does his development and downfall relate to Orwell's novel's arguments about tyrannical government power?

Consider the following guidelines to writing your hand-written essay:

- a. You must include a thorough thesis statement, answering the prompt with a defensible interpretation of the novel.
- b. Your essay should be well organized (new paragraphs for each important claim), include evidence from the text (quotations and paraphrasing) to support your claims, and commentary both linking your evidence to your claims and explaining the evidence's significance.
- c. Please include as part of your paper a discussion of one of the following:
 - i. An alternate interpretations of the novel
 - ii. Identifying and exploring complicated moral dilemmas present in the novel
 - iii. A thorough, fact-based discussion of real-world implications of the novel's themes or moral dilemmas (in other words, how are these themes playing out in 2022?)
- d. Your essay must be a minimum of two full pages, legible, and be largely free of grammar and spelling errors.
- e. It must be ready to be turned in on the first day of classes.

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