

When George Orwell wrote 1984 in 1948, the world was in a state of unease. World War II was still fresh in everyone's mind and the images of Hiroshima, Nagasaki and Auschwitz were seared in the world's psyche.

Orwell's vision of the world's future was bleak. His glimpse into a world of totalitarianism arose from his distrust of state run governments, especially the USSR. However, he wasn't shy about criticizing his own British government when they made mistakes.

Essay Question

Do you see any parallels between what happens in 1984 and what is happening in different areas of the world today, including our own country, or do you believe that what happens in the novel could never happen in our society? Your task is to write a research essay, using an expository format, comparing a current or past government, regime or leader with the Party or with Big Brother.

Steps to Success:

- Decide on a topic/country of interest and research it. Take notes as you go.
- You will have two periods in the library to research your paper.
- You will need to provide **parenthetical references** (in text references) and a **Works Cited** page.

Considerations:

You may wish to give some background information on the country, leader or regime in question, such as location, ethnic or religious breakdown, form of government and/or the ideology.

You may also wish to explore or explain:

- What this government/regime/leader has done to warrant comparison with 1984
- How they can be compared to Big Brother?
- What is, or was, life like in this country?
- How does the government maintain control over the population?
- Have living conditions improved or worsened under this leader?
- Is this leader known for using propaganda?
- Has this regime used torture, imprisonment or other inhumane tactics for maintaining control?

Essay Requirements:

You must provide me with a clear thesis statement and a point form outline of your essay.

Due date for outline: _____

Final version due date: _____

You must use in text references, and provide a works cited page. You must use a minimum of **one book and two reputable online database** sources found through WebCat (vsb.bc.ca) in your research. You must use **a minimum of three sources**. While you may get a general overview of your country or leader from Wikipedia, be warned that it is not reliable, and it is not considered an appropriate source for this assignment. (You will lose marks if you cite Wikipedia). A better and more reliable source is Google Scholar.

Length: 1000 words. Your **Essay** and **Works Cited** must be typed, double-spaced, in a 12 point font, Times New Roman or another serif font only thank you. **So no fonts that look like this** or this (which I especially can't stand!)

Possible Leaders or Countries to Investigate:

Europe

- Benito Mussolini, Italy (you may not select Mussolini if you are taking History 12)
- Slobodan Milosevic, Yugoslavia
- Nicolae Ceausescu, Romania
- Tito, Yugoslavia (considered benevolent)

Middle East

- The Taliban, Afghanistan
- Ayatollah Khomeini, Iran
- Saddam Hussein, Iraq
- Crown Prince Abdullah, Saudi Arabia

Asia & South East Asia

- Pol Pot, Kampuchea (Cambodia)
- Emperor Hirohito, Japan
- Than Shwe, Myanmar (Burma)
- Kim Il Sung, Kim Jong Il, North Korea
- Chiang Kai-Shek, People's Republic of China
- Mao Zedong, People's Republic of China (considered benevolent)
- General Suharto, Indonesia
- Ferdinand Marcos, Philippines

Africa

- Robert Mugabe, Zimbabwe
- Idi Amin, Uganda
- Muammar Gaddafi, Libya
- Joseph Mobuto, former Belgian Congo

The Americas

- Augusto Pinochet, Chile
- Juan Peron, Argentina
- Fidel Castro, Cuba
- Jean-Claude Duvalier, Haiti
- You may also consider a Canadian or American leader if you wish.

You may select another leader or country to investigate, but you must clear your choice with me.

You must select your first, second and third choice of leader to investigate by the end of the period. No more than 2 students may research the same leader (so everyone has access to materials).