***(Class Set: Please do NOT write on this!)***

***1984* Post Reading Discussion**: Each group will be assigned one of the quotes and each group should explain how their quote applies to the novel.

*1-Big Brother is watching you.*

*2-Double-think means the power of holding two contradictory beliefs in one’s mind simultaneously, and accepting both of them.*

*3-Who controls the past controls the future. Who controls the present controls the past.*

*4-There was truth and there was untruth, and if you clung to the truth even against the whole world, you were not mad.*

*5-Don’t you see that the whole aim of Newspeak is to narrow the range of thought? In the end we shall make thoughtcrime literally impossible, because there will be no words in which to express it.*

*6-If you want a picture of the future, imagine a boot stamping on a human face* *—* *forever.*

*7-And if all others accepted the lie which the Party imposed — if all records told the same tale — then the lie passed into history and became truth.*

*8-Until they became conscious they will never rebel, and until after they have rebelled they cannot become conscious.*

*9-The choice for mankind lies between freedom and happiness and for the great bulk of mankind, happiness is better.*

*10-For, after all, how do we know that two and two make four? Or that the force of gravity works? Or that the past is unchangeable? If both the past and the external world exist only in the mind, and if the mind itself is controllable — what then?*

*11-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 establish the dictatorship. The object of persecution is persecution. The object of torture is torture. The object of power is power.*

*12-The Party seeks power entirely for its own sake. We are not interested in the good of others; we are interested solely in power, pure power.*

*13-The Ministry of Peace concerns itself with war, the Ministry of Truth with lies, the Ministry of Love with torture and the Ministry of Plenty with starvation. These contradictions are not accidental, nor do they result from ordinary hypocrisy: they are deliberate exercises in doublethink.*

**Post Reading Discussion Continued**:

**14-What are other passages from the novel that you found particularly interesting or still relevant today?**

15-If Orwell had changed his title to this year instead of *1984*, what themes/ideas/points/situations would apply to our life today?

16-What does utopia mean? What makes *1984* dystopian? What are some other dystopian works that you have read (book) or seen (movies)? What other music videos/movies/books have similar messages of “Big Brother” or “somebody watching you” ideas? (Note: Show Rockwell video).

17-Either keep a log of your technological activities over the course of a week or think back at how much time you spent last week on-line. Analyze your behavior. Were there times you acted like “Little Brother,” (from article) or were there times that you believed that you were being watched or had sacrificed privacy? Do you believe that over all, technology made their life better over the course of this week? Or did you believe that they were being controlled by it?

18-How does George Orwell’s vision of technology and its uses in *1984* compare with today’s reality? How have concerns about privacy and freedom expressed in the novel been manifested in the contemporary world? Give some specific examples from the text and today.

19-Do you agree or disagree? Add to this or thoughtfully respond to this:

Andrew Simmons wrote that the reason we need to teach *1984* in high schools is to make students, “decent, compassionate, alert, engaged truth-seekers, neither callous, fearful Party enablers nor complacent, dead-eyed Proles who poke their iPhones and scoff at memes and chirp their discontent in brief blips of coherence. Bravery is something that people can be taught. Books may be the best teachers for what to do when the fireworks veer too close.”

20**-**Do you think this book should be considered for the kind of [“one book, one city”](http://www1.nyc.gov/site/mome/initiatives/1book1ny.page) initiative in which all citizens in certain place read the same work of literature? Explain.

21-(**Language** & **Dialect Discussion**) Discuss Orwell’s words and discussion of language in this novel. What was his purpose of creating these words? What is the message that the novel sends about language? Can changing language change thought? How do these things relate to today?

Which words from this novel are a common part of our language today?

(Are some ways of speaking “privileged”? Can language be stigmatized?)

* Big Brother
* doublethink
* thoughtcrime
* Newspeak
* memory hole
* Orwellian
* Thought police

*Don’t you see that the whole aim of Newspeak is to narrow the range of thought? In the end we shall make thoughtcrime literally impossible, because there will be no words in which to express it.*