



## Discussion Questions and Essay Prompts

**Purpose:** These questions help you think critically about themes, characters, power structures, and Orwell's message.

### Part 1: Discussion Questions

#### Power and Control

- How does the Party maintain power over the citizens of Oceania?
- Is fear more powerful than love in controlling people? Why?
- Does the Party control people physically, mentally, or both? Explain.

#### Truth and Reality

- Why does the Party rewrite history?
- Can truth exist in a society where language is controlled?
- What does Winston mean when he says freedom is the ability to say "two plus two make four"?

#### Rebellion and Resistance

- Is Winston truly a hero, or is he weak from the beginning?
- How is Julia's rebellion different from Winston's?
- Is personal rebellion enough to challenge a political system?

## **Loyalty and Betrayal**

- Why do Winston and Julia betray each other?
- Is betrayal inevitable in a society built on fear?
- Does torture justify the Party's success in controlling citizens?

## **Society and Modern Relevance**

- In what ways is the world of 1984 similar to modern society?
- How does surveillance affect individual freedom today?
- Is Orwell warning about a specific government or about human nature in general?

## **Part 2: Short Essay Prompts (1–2 Pages)**

- Analyze how the Party uses fear to maintain control in the novel.
- Discuss the role of language in shaping reality in 1984.
- Compare Winston and Julia as rebels. Who is stronger and why?
- Examine how betrayal contributes to the tragic ending of the novel.
- Explain how Orwell presents power as something that corrupts absolutely.

## **Part 3: Analytical Essay Prompts (Advanced Level)**

**“Power is not a means; it is an end.”**

- Analyze how this idea shapes the actions of O'Brien and the Party.
- Discuss whether Winston's defeat was inevitable from the beginning of the novel.
- Explore the theme of psychological control and explain how it is more powerful than physical force.
- Analyze how hope is created and destroyed throughout the novel.
- Evaluate whether the proles represent real hope or false hope.