

AP English Language & Composition

Ms. Pameticky and Mr. Wells

2016 Summer Reading and Technology Project

In the spirit of AP, and in celebration of reading and writing, Wichita High School East AP English juniors and seniors are required to complete summer reading and related assignments.

Students will check out George Orwell's *1984* from their AP teacher. Students may also purchase their own copies of the required reading. A special discount on the book can be obtained at Watermark Books, 4701 E. Douglas or most major book sellers.

Purpose: to begin thinking as AP Language students; to begin reading & writing as AP Language students; to use close observation; to consider the world around you from different perspectives.

All AP Language juniors are required to read and complete the following assignments related to *1984* by George Orwell:

I. Assignment 1 (due 2nd day of school): Journal Entries (2) and Log sheet (1)

II. Assignment 2 (first week of school): Objective test over the book

Study guides will be distributed to aid in review but are not required for a grade.

III. Assignment 3 (second week of school): In-class group discussion

IV. Assignment 4 (second week of school): Write an in-class essay over a passage selected from the novel

Journals:

1. Relevance: Students are expected to address each quote in their journals and connect to the assignment directly.
2. Thoroughness: Journal responses should evidence care and thought. In written responses, simple factual recording of events (unless for the purpose of support) will not receive as high an evaluation as one which clearly displays interpretation and analysis. Although a minimum requirement of **500** words is specified in the assignments, the word *minimum* will be stressed. Among AP students, we anticipate three to four pages, typically, for this kind of task.
3. Form and Style: Unless otherwise indicated, journals are expected to follow standard conventions regarding clear introductions, well-developed and supported body paragraphs put together logically, appropriate conclusions, coherence and unity throughout, and attention to stylistic concerns such as sentence construction and variety, as well as effective vocabulary choices, etc. Students are held accountable for exercising standard English conventions of grammar, spelling, and usage where appropriate to the genre, implied audience, purpose, and degree of formality. **THIS IS NOT STREAM-OF-CONSCIOUSNESS WRITING!** Although hand-written, these are NOT expected to be INFORMAL. Students will be in the process of developing strong academic 'voices' as scholars and critics.

All handouts and instructions can also be found on East's School Fusion site: <http://east.usd259.org/>

Log and Journal Assignments:

A *In George Orwell's 1984, that novel of totalitarian politics whose great mistake was to emphasize the villainy of society's masters while playing down the mischief of the masses, the goal of communications technology was brutal and direct: to ensure the dominance of the state. The sinister "telescreens" placed in people's homes spewed propaganda and conducted surveillance, keeping the population passive and the leadership firmly in control. In the face of constant monitoring, all people could do was sterilize their behavior, conceal their thoughts and carry on like model citizens.*

This was, it turns out, a quaint scenario, grossly simplistic and deeply melodramatic. As the Internet proves every day, it isn't some stern and monolithic Big Brother that we have to reckon with as we go about our daily lives, it's a vast cohort of prankish Little Brothers equipped with devices that Orwell, writing 60 years ago, never dreamed of and who are loyal to no organized authority. The invasion of privacy — of others' privacy but also our own, as we turn our lenses on ourselves in the quest for attention by any means — has been democratized.
- From "Little Brother is Watching" by Walter Kirn (New York Times. 15 Oct., 2010)

Journal—Defend, challenge, or qualify Kirn's assertion about "Little Brother." Include anecdotal evidence of your experiences or observations to support your position. This journal will be at least 500 words of handwritten response. It should follow traditional essay form, i.e., introduction, body, conclusion, and be well supported by references to the above list.

B *Max Frisch (1911-1991) wrote, "Technology [gives us] the knack of so arranging the world that we don't have to experience it."*

Log Sheet—Over a two-day period, keep a log of when, where, and how you are using technology to live. Prepare for this by reviewing your typical uses of technology: What technology do you use to eat? For entertainment? Transportation? Communication? Exercise? In the margin at the right of your log, reflect on the following: Has technology made your life better over these few days? Are you controlled by technology? Could you do without it?

Journal— In a well-organized journal, defend, challenge, or qualify Frisch's assertion about technology. Include evidence from your reading, experience, or observation log to support your position. This journal will be at least 500 words of handwritten response. It should follow traditional essay form, i.e., introduction, body, conclusion, and be well supported by references to the above list.