**Brainstorming for the *1984* Research Paper**

To prepare for your upcoming junior research paper, you will examine the **social, political and cultural issues** that have arisen in George Orwell’s dystopian novel *1984* and settle on a topic that is most interesting to you.

Ultimately, your research paper will present **the results of your investigations on the topic of your choice**. Based on your own thoughts and the facts and ideas you will gather from the primary source, *1984*, as well as a variety of secondary sources, and you will develop **an arguable thesis statement** that will be the basis of your entire paper. You should **start to think** about the numerous themes and connections that you’ve discovered and that we’ve discussed in class.

**These are some possible topics to consider:**

# Research the totalitarian governments and their leaders that inspired Orwell to write *1984*

* Stalin’s Soviet Communist party
* Hitler’s German Nazi party
* Mussolini’s Italian National Fascist Party

\*\*\*You can choose to focus on just one or all three.

# Research contemporary totalitarian governments and their leaders

* The People’s Republic of China and Hu Jintao
* North Korea and Kim Jong il
* Libya’s and Muammar Gaddafi

\*\*\*You can choose to focus on just one or all three.

# Research other political, social and cultural issues

* Privacy issues that Americans face today
* Examine the policies of America’s Homeland Security and The Patriot Act
* Compare America’s culture of fear regarding terrorism post 911 compared to Oceania’s culture of fear
* Compare America’s media manipulation to Oceania’s Ministry of Truth’s manipulation
* Compare issues of contemporary police surveillance, brutality, intimidation, and corruption to the Party’s policies
* Examine when technology goes bad or is misused

This research paper is different from a typical literary analysis paper (like the ones you wrote for *Beowulf* and *Macbeth*) because you are not only analyzing *1984*, **but you are also analyzing a topic/issue that you see outside of the novel**. That’s where the research comes in – **your secondary sources will not only be about *1984* they will also be about your topic/issue.** The purpose of the paper is to defend an argument using *1984* as your primary source.

Example Topic: The Party’s policies, depicted in Orwell’s novel *1984*, are similar to the brutality, intimidation, and corruption of America’s police force.

This topic is arguable because some people may either disagree that America’s police force uses brutality and intimidation, or they may disagree that today’s police force is anything like the Party.

1. The **1st topic** that I am most interested in is:
2. What do you already know about this topic?
3. What are some of the connections you can make between this topic and *1984*?
4. What do you hope to learn about this topic? Ask 3 questions that you find the answers to.

1. The **2nd topic** that I am most interested in is:
2. What do you already know about this topic?
3. What are some of the connections you can make between this topic and *1984*?
4. What do you hope to learn about this topic? Ask 3 questions that you find the answers to.
5. The **2nd topic** that I am most interested in is:
6. What do you already know about this topic?
7. What are some of the connections you can make between this topic and *1984*?
8. What do you hope to learn about this topic? Ask 3 questions that you find the answers to.