

***Nineteen Eighty-Four* Critical Thinking Unit**

Directions: Create a well-thought-out and well-written 5 to 6 sentence response for each question. Use the question as a writing prompt. Each response should be completely labeled, and the question will serve as the title of the response. All responses are written direction below the question. All writing rules apply.

1. How can INDIVIDUALITY be destroyed by a political system?
2. Language is a powerful tool for controlling how people view the world.
3. A knowledge of the past is essential for evaluating the present.
4. People can be forced to give up their beliefs and even alter their feelings if their survival is threatened.
5. Do you have beliefs that you would not give up under any circumstance? Explain.
6. Explain the ways in which the Party affects daily life. How does it affect living arrangements, the work environment, and social relations?
7. How does the world that the Party describes on the news, contrast with Winston's surroundings? Provide details.
8. Winston writes in his diary and at his work. Explain the differences between the two sets of writing and tell how they show that Winston is not entirely caught up in doublethink.
9. Why are Winston and Julia caught? Explain what indications the story gives that they will be caught.
10. What is Winston's initial attitude toward the proles? How is this shown? What makes Winston conclude that, if there is hope, it lies in the proles?
11. What is it about the paperweight that makes Winston find in it – "a whole world." Explain.
12. Explain what Winston's dreams, memories, and hallucinations indicate about his character in the beginning of the novel. Why is such mental activity a threat to

the Party? How does this mental activity work to make Winston an increasing enemy of the Party?

13. Several settings in the novel are clearly described – the apartment, the office, the lunchroom, the room over the junk shop, Room 101. Choose ONE and explain how it relates to one or two of the major themes of the novel. How does the frequent shift of scene reinforce the theme of isolation in the novel?

14. Winston's final isolation is mental, physical, and emotional. How do these aspects compare with his isolation at the beginning of the novel?

15. Discuss some of the ways suspense is created in the novel. Choose two examples of unfulfilled expectations or unexpectedly fulfilled expectations and explain why each of them is suspenseful.

16. Discuss the role in the novel of the statement $2 + 2 = 5$.

17. How can INDIVIDUALITY be destroyed by a political system?

18. Language is a powerful tool for controlling how people view the world.

19. A knowledge of the past is essential for evaluating the present.

20. People can be forced to give up their beliefs and even alter their feelings if their survival is threatened.

21. Do you have beliefs that you would not give up under any circumstance? Explain.