

Study Guide for 1984/Animal Farm Exam

1. Using your reading of 1984 (Animal Farm), *Politics and the English Language*, Christopher Hitchens' introduction, and the Appendix, write an argumentative essay in which you assert Orwell's message for us, his readers. Remember to prove your ideas with direct evidence from the above texts. Consider counterarguments or refutations to your ideas within your response.
2. Use one passage from the text to demonstrate a "deep" interpretation--provide context, analysis and synthesis. Lastly, use that passage as a means to illuminate a fundamental truth that Orwell exposes about human nature, society, government, etc.
3. Choose one of the follow prompts and provide an essay in which you prove your answer to those questions as they relate to 1984 (*Animal Farm*) AND the current "real" world. AVOID repeating topics or ideas from your previous exam answers!!!
 - a) Should a government restrict personal freedoms in order to decrease violence and crimes?
 - b) Peter Jennings once said, "Whoever controls the media, controls reality." Do you agree? Do we believe the news we read and see on television? Can the news media be used to manipulate us?
 - c) Henry Kissinger wrote, "History is the memory of states." Is history unchangeable, existing independently of human memory or human records, or can history be rewritten using different records and different points of view? What is the importance of history in our lives?
 - d) O'Brien says that the proles will never revolt, yet Winston sees the proles as the only hope for change. Which man is right, and why? What does the Party do to discourage rebellion among the proles, and why are these techniques successful? Do you see any parallels between the lives of the proles and our own lives?
 - e) Much of the book focuses on Newspeak and the limiting of language. Why do you think this is such an important tool for the Party? Why is language important in our society?
 - f) Is reality objective, existing independently of our perception of it as Winston believes? Or is reality subjective, existing only in our perception of it as the Party believes? Can two people see the same reality differently? If so, which is the real reality?

