**Summer Reading Requirement**  
**AP Language and Composition**

**1984 by George Orwell**

**Summary:** *1984* by George Orwell depicts a dystopian society where the totalitarian regime Oceania (formerly England) controls the actions and thoughts of all its citizens. Protagonist Winston Smith works in the Records Department in the Ministry of Truth where he constructs lies to support the propaganda machine of Oceania and its leader, Big Brother. Smith eventually becomes disgruntled with his job, his lonely existence, and his lack of freedom. He falls in love with a mechanic from the Fiction Department (Julia), and the star-crossed lovers plot to join the enemy of Oceania – The Brotherhood. Orwell wrote this book post WWII and sets the book in the future. *1984* is one of the first examples (and most successful) of a dystopian novel.

**Instructions**

2. In the inside cover or blank page in the front of the book, find valid definitions for the following terms and write them out: socialism, totalitarianism, propaganda, and dystopia.
3. You should also annotate for:
   a. **Literary devices** including symbol, characterization, diction, tone, the four types of conflict, metaphor, personification, setting, juxtaposition, syntax, foreshadowing etc. In addition, while reading make predictions of what might happen next.
   b. **Personal connections/reactions to the text.** Make connections to other pieces of literature, connections to our Catholic faith (can mark for whether something goes against and reinforces our beliefs and teachings from the Bible.) Ask questions of the characters and author’s purpose. For example, you could put yourself in the shoes of a character and comment on what you might do in that situation.
   c. **Motifs and Themes:** *Manipulation of language and history*  
      *Psychological control* *Human weakness vs. human strength*  
      *Rebellion* *Government surveillance vs. individual rights*
   d. **Orwellian Terms:** George Orwell coined terms in *1984* that we use in our everyday speech. Make sure your annotations include an analysis of the following Orwellian terms: Big Brother, Oldspeak, Newspeak, Doublethink, Memory hole, Room 101
4. Be prepared for a test within the first few class periods. Using Spark notes or any other aid in lieu of reading will greatly inhibit you from understanding the complexity of the text and forming your own ideas.

5. Once School Begins: Write paper! We will be writing a paper very quickly in the first few days of school. The more seriously you annotate and analyze the book, the easier the paper will be to write.

A note on annotating:

*Annotations should be thorough and more than one-word markings. For example, it’s not enough to mark that something is a paradox. Mark the device and try to come to a conclusion on why Orwell would create this paradox. Spend time interpreting the devices and characters.

*When making personal connections/reactions, it is not sufficient to say “Wow!” or “LOL!” These one-word reactions are not in-depth and communicate little to what you are actually thinking.

*Although you can use a highlighter, highlighting is NOT annotating. Make sure if you highlight something, you are writing a note in the margins to explain WHY you highlighted that section. In addition, if you highlight every word on every single page, you have highlighted essentially nothing. Many students use a color-code system to mark for various elements (which is a great idea) but without actual comments, this color-code system without annotations could still result in a failing grade.

*Asking Questions & Making Critiques: You can ask questions of the text and mark for elements you find confusing or puzzling. It is also okay to critique sections of the book where you think there could be a flaw in Orwell’s writing as long as your comments are mature and reflective.

*As a reminder, this is a college-level class, so we expect college-level work. Please do not procrastinate.