

*Lesson Plans and Assessment Rubrics on
George Orwell's 1984 (12th grade)*

Contributors:

Contributors:

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Writing Task: *Voices from the Past – A Confession to the Future*

Background:

In 1984, Winston and Julia live under constant surveillance by the Thought Police, ultimately betrayed and separated. Their private thoughts and feelings are trapped in a world controlled by Big Brother.

The Library of Congress preserves many personal stories of people who lived under oppressive regimes. One of the most famous is the Diary of Anne Frank, a young Jewish girl who secretly wrote her thoughts and experiences while hiding from the Nazis during World War II. Her diary is a powerful testimony of fear, hope, and the human spirit, preserved for future generations to read.

You can explore excerpts and images from Anne Frank's diary here:
[Anne Frank's Diary | Library of Congress](#)

Your Task:

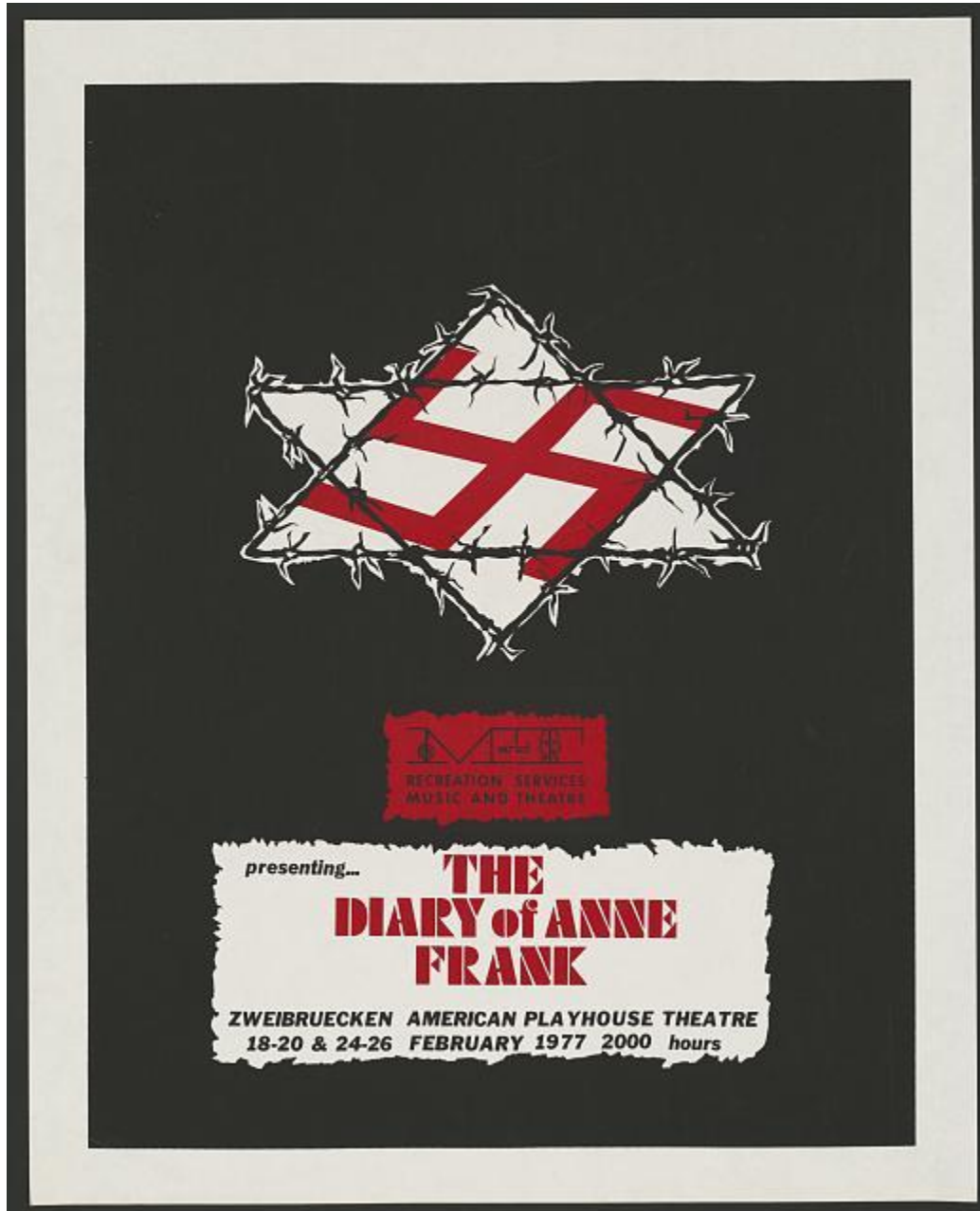
Imagine you are Winston or Julia just after being betrayed and separated by the Thought Police. You are writing a secret journal entry meant to be found by someone far in the future, who will read your words to understand your experience and struggles under Big Brother's regime.

Write a journal entry that:

- Expresses your deepest thoughts and feelings about what happened.
- Shares your hopes or fears for the future.
- Offers a warning or message for future readers living in a freer world.
- Uses vivid details from your life in Oceania (the fear, the surveillance, the love, the betrayal).
- Is honest and creative, as if your words might be the last whisper of rebellion.

Inspiration:

Read excerpts from Anne Frank's diary on the Library of Congress website. Notice how her private words reveal her emotions and hope despite living in fear. Use her diary as a model for how personal stories can survive to teach and inspire those who come after.



Guidelines:

- Write 300-400 words in the form of a journal entry.
- Use first-person voice as Winston or Julia.
- Be thoughtful and reflective.
- Proofread for clarity and grammar.
- Turn in your final submission in NoRedInk

Criteria	Excellent (4)	Good (3)	Fair (2)	Needs Improvement (1)	Points Earned
Understanding of Character & Context	Demonstrates deep understanding of Winston or Julia's perspective, emotions, and situation after betrayal; rich use of 1984 details	Shows good understanding of character and situation; some relevant 1984 details	Basic understanding of character but limited connection to 1984 context	Little or no understanding of character or context; lacks connection to 1984	
Expression of Thoughts & Feelings	Vividly expresses deep, honest, and reflective emotions and thoughts about betrayal, fear, and hope	Expresses clear emotions and thoughts, mostly reflective and relevant	Shows some emotions but lacks depth or clarity	Emotionally flat or confusing; does not clearly express thoughts	
Use of Vivid Details	Incorporates strong, specific, and relevant details from life in Oceania (fear, surveillance, love, betrayal)	Includes some relevant details that enhance understanding	Few details included, some may be vague or irrelevant	Lacks details or details are inaccurate or off-topic	
Creativity & Voice	Creative, authentic first-person	Clear first-person voice	Basic first-person voice	No clear voice; writing	

Criteria	Excellent (4)	Good (3)	Fair (2)	Needs Improvement (1)	Points Earned
Message/Warning to Future Readers	journal voice that feels genuine and compelling Thoughtful and meaningful message or warning clearly expressed to future generations	with some creativity Message or warning present but somewhat unclear	with limited creativity Message or warning is vague or underdeveloped	feels detached or generic No discernible message or warning	
Writing Mechanics & Clarity	Clear, well-organized, and virtually error-free writing with excellent grammar and spelling	Mostly clear and organized; few grammar/spelling errors	Some errors that distract but meaning is still understandable	Frequent errors interfere with understanding	
Length & Format	Meets length requirement (300-400 words) and journal entry format	Slightly under/over length; generally follows format	Significantly short or long; inconsistent format	Does not meet length or format requirements	

Propaganda Project: Creating an Advertisement

In class, we have discussed the following propaganda techniques: bandwagon, loaded words, snob appeal, testimonial, transfer, misuse of statistics, and plain folks. You have also completed an assignment in which you have analyzed ads and statements followed by identifying the propaganda techniques.

For this project, you will be creating your OWN ADVERTISEMENT for YOUR OWN PRODUCT.

Guidelines:

1. Think of a product that you have great interest in. It could be similar to something that is already on the market. However, you have to distinguish your product from the others. What makes your product different? Why should customers purchase your product?
2. Create a name for your product
3. Create a slogan for your product (It should be catchy)
4. Determine the propaganda technique(s) you will use to advertise the product.
5. The propaganda technique(s) chosen should be present and apparent in your advertisement.

In your advertisement, you will have...

- a. The name of the product
- b. A picture(s) of the product
- c. The slogan
- d. Evidence of the propaganda technique(s) used

Add color and illustrations to your advertisement to make it appealing to your audience!

Writing:

After you have completed the advertisement, write a paragraph (a minimum of 8 sentences) describing the types of propaganda you have used in the advertisement and the reasons you chose each. Explain why, in your opinion, an average adult might be interested in purchasing your product.

You will be graded on creativity, originality, and the use of propaganda in your advertisement and the content and standard English grammar/spelling/punctuation of your paragraph.



RUBRIC:

4=Exceeds assignment requirements

3=Meets assignment requirements

2=Marginally meets assignment requirements

1=Does not meet assignment requirements

ADVERTISEMENT

CREATIVITY	4	3	2	1
ORIGINALITY	4	3	2	1
USE OF PROPAGANDA	4	3	2	1

PARAGRAPH

CONTENT	4	3	2	1
GRAMMAR/ETC.	4	3	2	1

TOTAL = _____

1984 — Writing Prompt

Choose **ONE** writing prompt:

1. “Winston’s Secret Diary Entry (Lost Page)”

Write a diary entry Winston *could* have written between Chapters 3–10.

Include:

- His fears
- His memories
- His confusion about reality
- His desire to rebel

2. Rewrite the Ending

Give the novel a new ending — hopeful, tragic, comedic, or revolutionary.

3. “1984 Alternate Ending”

Rewrite the final 1–2 pages of the book so that:

- Winston **does NOT** accept Big Brother
- OR Julia returns
- OR the Proles revolt
- OR Winston escapes

Your ending must reflect at least one major theme (control, rebellion, truth, psychological manipulation).

4. “Two Minutes Hate” Participant Reflection

Write a reflective journal from someone after attending the Hate:

- Did they feel genuine anger?
- Did they fake it?
- Are they scared someone saw their reaction?

5. Analytical

Explain how the Party uses *language* to control thought.

Use textual evidence.

Rubric (Creative + Analytical Writing)

Total: 25 Points

Category	5 – Excellent	4 – Proficient	3 – Developing	2 – Beginning	1 – Incomplete
Understanding of Text	Demonstrates deep insight; highly accurate	Clear understanding	Some errors or gaps	Limited understanding	Misunderstands major ideas
Creativity / Originality	Extremely original; highly engaging	Creative and interesting	Some creativity	Little creativity	Very basic or copied
Use of Evidence/Details	Strong, meaningful references	Accurate references	Some reference to text	Minimal references	No references
Organization & Clarity	Strong structure, easy to follow	Generally organized	Some unclear areas	Organization needed	Hard to follow
Mechanics (Grammar, etc.)	Very few errors	Some errors but readable	Frequent errors	Errors distract	Too many errors to assess

Scoring Guide:

23–25 = A

20–22 = B

17–19 = C

14–16 = D

Below 14 = Needs revision