

Matanzas High School Summer Reading 2009
English Honors IV

For summer reading, students in **English Honors IV** should read *1984* by George Orwell. Then, students should respond in writing to this essay prompt:

A prevalent topic in literature is the role of the individual. Discuss whether the protagonists, Winston Smith and Julia, are successful in asserting their rights as individuals. Don't just paraphrase the story, but use specific examples and support from the text to support your analysis.

The essay is due in class on September 18, 2009. On that same day in class, there will be an objective test on the novels. Although students will be turning in a print copy of the essay, they will also need to upload the essay to www.turnitin.com, a plagiarism detection site utilized by Matanzas High School faculty. I will provide instructions for logging in and utilizing this site during the first week or two of class.

The essay must be in 10 or 12-point type, with Word default margins (generally 1.5 spaces and 1 inch margins) and paginated. Students should create a "header" at the top of the page, which includes the student name, the title, of the assignment and the date. In order to answer the question fully, the suggested length of the essay is approximately 750 words. I'll evaluate the essay using the rubric on the reverse side of this sheet.

A personal word to students: *1984* is set in an indeterminate time in the future (I know that the year 1984 has come and gone, BUT the novel is meant to be set in a future dystopia). Feel free to do some background research on line; use whatever materials you like to enhance your understanding, but READ the books yourself. Using book notes in place of reading is cheating – cheating both yourself and your education. Although reading may not be the first item on your list of fun summer activities, like anything, we only improve when we train ourselves in that area. So the more you read, the easier it gets; the more you enjoy it and the better insight you have into the writing! ☺

Questions?

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