

English IV Summer Assignment

Step 1. Read *1984* by George Orwell.

Step 2. Complete *1984 - Dispatches from a Dystopia Project*

1984 takes place in a future that George Orwell imagined, where all of his fears about totalitarianism had come true. The government had absolute control over its people's lives, using misinformation, fear, and hatred to ensure that Big Brother stayed in power. Orwell used conventions such as the Two Minute Hate, doublespeak, and the telescreen to illustrate how the inhabitants of *1984* were kept under control. Most of these ideas came from experiences Orwell observed during World War II and the rise of the Soviet Union. He made exaggerations of laws already in place to lay the foundation for his dystopia.

Now you get to do the same. Our world is not *1984*, but it's nowhere near perfect. I want you to create your own dystopia, a world set in 2080. A problem in our society today has been dealt with in a frightening way, and a new government is in power. Your dystopia must push unethical laws on its people in an effort to control them. What these laws are and how they enforce them – that's up to you.

You will be expected to complete the following assignments:

1. Plan out a dystopia. Write a one-page description of what your government is like. The report must answer the following questions

- What laws/rules must people abide by?
- What kind of government is in place?
- How does the government control its people?
- Why is it so horrible?

The paper must be typed and double-spaced in Times New Roman Font, Size 12.

2. Create a newspaper from your dystopia. This can be a newspaper produced by the government to help control the people, or it can be an underground newspaper produced by a resistance to inform the people of the government's wrongdoing. Either way, the newspaper **must look like a real newspaper**. You are responsible for three articles that will reflect the life and times of your dystopia. **The first two articles must be current events based**, and you may choose between the following types of articles for the third article.

Current event #3

Government

Sports

Arts

Two Advertisements

Editorials

Business

Politics

Entertainment

Five Classified Ads

Education

Comics

The MAJOR GRADE will be broken down like so –

<u>Dystopia Description</u>	<u>40%</u>	<u>Newspaper</u>	<u>60%</u>
Details	15%	Visual Appeal	15%
Creativity	15%	Article #1	15%
Conventions	10%	Article #2	10%
		Article #3	10%
		Conventions	10%

DUE – The first day of school!

This project requires a lot of imagination and hard work. I do expect it to take up a chunk of your summer. So much of this assignment is based on creativity, so have fun with this and your grade will flourish.

There will be a *1984* Test at the beginning of the second week of school.

Start the year with a good grade!

I have attached an example of the project to help you understand what we are looking for on the project. Any other questions, e-mail RMACGREG@HOUSTONISD.ORG and you will get a response at least ten days before school begins.

We look forward to teaching you. This grade will be your first major grade of your senior year. The *1984* quiz will be the second. Start your year off on the right foot.

An example follows -

Personal Responsibility Dystopia

It is the year 2080. The United States has changed drastically, thanks to legislation passed in 2024. The legislation was passed by then president, Jenna W. H. W. Bush. Her constitutional amendment was known as “the Personal Responsibility Act.” It stated that every citizen of the United States would be considered a responsible adult at the age of ten. Ten year olds would be able to drink, vote, work, drive, enlist, and decide whether or not they would stay in school. This amendment was made as a drastic effort by Bush to stay in office, and allowed her to remain president for four more years. During those years, public schools began seeing a mass exodus of middle school and high school students. This began a complete upheaval of United States society.

With diminishing numbers in public schools, class sizes dropped and assessment scores soared. The students who remained in school were able to master lessons that had previously been taught only in college. These students attended colleges, which also had huge drops in enrollment, and soon graduated to receive extremely high paying jobs. Students who dropped out began working minimum wage jobs and enlisting, once they became addicted to drinking and realized the importance of money. With a gigantic surge in the workforce, corporations argued that more jobs must be available to help the “new adults,” and the United States reversed several labor laws. This allowed the minimum wage to be lowered and child labor laws to be revoked. Sweat shops became legal, and many children would work eight hour days for money to be spent on sugary alcoholic beverages. Soon, the corporations were run by the educated minority, who basically brainwashed the uneducated into a life of servitude.

By 2080, America was completely divided into the wealthy, educated elite, and the uneducated poor. Crime has skyrocketed in the “poor-towns,” while the rich remain safe in gated communities. Police are mostly centered around the gated communities, rather than the poor areas with high crime. The homeless population has increased exponentially and illiteracy and alcoholism are out of control.

Enlightened Times \$2

Mensaville High Senior Kept Twelve Year Old as Pet

Police are investigating reports that a Mensaville High School Senior has been keeping a 12 year old "pó-folk" as a pet for the past two months. The student, Alouicious Crunk, 16, had apparently lured the new adult into his car by offering alcoholic beverage Dr. Fupper to him. Crunk managed to sneak the "pó folk", one Clembob Mullet, into the Mensaville Park Estates community, where he then kept Mullet intoxicated for the next two weeks. In this time, he apparently trained Mullet to act like a dog to receive drinks in a plastic bowl. Crunk then used Mullet to entertain friends at parties. Police were tipped off to the situation when Mullet was discovered chasing a Dr. Fupper truck through the Estates streets. While educated youth humiliating "pó folk" has been a time-honored tradition in Mensaville, police consider this abduction and brainwashing to be part of a dangerous new trend. "Students are too distracted by the obvious advantage they have over the pó-folks," says Mensaville High principal Scott Simmons. "They are excited to begin taking advantage of the uneducated and it is taking their attention away from studies." While Crunk insists that the abduction was "all in good fun," police warn that inviting a "pó folk" into a gated community is a dangerous risk. Sergeant Roy Alaniz said "Pó folk should not be brought in for any reason. We understand that messing with them is fun, but they can not understand the street signs here and can cause traffic problems and-

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Accidental Deaths in Pótown on the Rise Again

The Pótown mass grave trench diggers had to work overtime yet again this week, as the accidental death toll of the uneducated, imbecilic rabble hit a weekly high of 17,262; up 12% from last week. This sharp increase can be directly related to the introduction of a new household cleaner, Joy Plus, designed to cut through kitchen grease and eradicate pesky dishpan hands. Due to their inability to read the warning labels and overall apathetic demeanors, many citizens of Pótown drank the cleaner after stealing it from shelves, thinking it was a "new kind of hooch." An educational missionary group from Mensaville has been sent to warn people about the new threat. "We have not seen such a dramatic increase in accidental deaths since last year's George Foreman grill fiasco," states public health director Einstein Jones. "Pó folk are just so darn stupid now, warning labels - Continued on Page 4A



Local New Adult Alouicious Crunk shown at his eleventh birthday party

Reuters

Monday Night Stupidity Baiting to Make Network Debut

After receiving rave review and drawing spectators by the thousands, the exciting new sport of Stupidity Baiting will make its Monday Night premiere on network television at 7:00. This evening's match-up will pit the New Oxford Cerebellums against the defending N.S.B. champion Los Alamos Brainfarts, who come into the match undefeated. For those of you unacquainted with Stupidity Baiting, crawl out from under your rock and watch the teams pull every move in their arsenals to lure new adults from Pótown to their death. Last week, New Oxford's Poindexter Osmosis ensured his spot in the hall of fame by throwing a carton of cigarettes into a pool of boiling magma, which resulted in a kill count of 25. "His technique was spectacular and hilarious at the same time," stated Los Alamos' star baiter Brainy "Smurf" Copernicus, "but not good enough." Copernicus has racked up an impressive kill rate of 17 a game with his patented "gasoline cocktail" move - Continued on Page 17A