

1984 Seminar Discussion Groups

Each of you will be assigned to a seminar group. Each group is responsible for leading the seminar discussion on the volume you've been assigned.

Assignments are as follows:

Group A	Volume 1	Sections 1: Chapters I-IV	Section 2: Chapters V-VIII
Group B	Volume 2	Sections 3: Chapters I-VI	Section 4: Chapters VII-X
Group C	Volume 3	Sections 5: Chapters I-II	Section 6: Chapters III-IV

Discussion Ideas

Read your section carefully, making annotations in your book or on sticky notes attached to the page.

Prepare **seven** thought-provoking questions that are generally level two and three, as defined below. There are basically three levels of questions:

- level one: literal--the answer can be found in the text directly;
- level two: interpretive--the answer can be drawn from the text in general, the answer is interpreted, a conclusion based on careful reading;
- level three: extension--the answer is found outside of the book, the text is a reference point for generating ideas beyond the text.

Again, I'm looking for ten questions that qualify as level two or three: interpretive and extension.

You should use one or more of the following strategies:

Strategy 1: Cite a passage and ask an open-ended interpretive question. (Do not just say: "So, what do you think about that?").

Strategy 2: Point out symbols, metaphors, effective imagery or diction, dominant tones/shifts in tone and suggest the effect they have in the text/author's purpose.

Strategy 3: Discuss events in the novel and then ask what Orwell is saying about his society or our society. Ask about parallels in our day and age, etc.

Keep your eye on the room and balance the responses. You will be in charge of initiating and continuing the discussion.

Written notes

On the day your group's volume is discussed, you will be responsible to bring to class the following:

- Synopsis of your section
- One lead question: Identify a question you believe would best open the discussion on this particular section of the novel. This may be what you believe to be the most important, most interesting, most profound, most controversial, etc. part of the volume.
- Three interpretive questions: see criteria above
- Three extension questions: see criteria above
- You will provide brief notes for responses to each of your questions

This should be printed out on a single sheet of paper. It will be handed in to me after our seminar discussion that day.