1. **CENSORSHIP**

# Texas: If You Can't Ban Books, Ban Author

Each winter, Humble Independent School District, located in a suburb northwest of Houston, hosts a literary festival. The all-day celebration of books, which alternates yearly between a children's literature and a teen lit event, has quickly grown into one of the nation's leading festivals. Last January's "Peace, Love & Books" gala at Creekwood Middle School featured nationally acclaimed authors and illustrators and drew hundreds of children and families, despite the damp weather.

But this school year, there will be no such celebration of books. Not because of budget cuts, and certainly not because of lack of interest. This school year's teen literature festival has been canceled because of a string of events that followed the banning last month of best-selling young-adult author Ellen Hopkins — just in time for the controversy to ripen for Banned Books Week, which is commemorated during the last week of September.

Secular and religious authorities have been attempting to ban books ever since people have been writing them. In Germany, where Johann Gutenberg invented the printing press, the first official censorship office was established within decades of the innovation. In the U.S., Anthony Comstock, considered to be the pioneer of modern American censorship, persuaded Congress to enact the Comstock laws, which banned the mailing of materials found to be "lewd, indecent, filthy or obscene." Under those laws, the works of literary giants such as Ernest Hemingway, F. Scott Fitzgerald and John Steinbeck were censored. Nowadays, beloved characters ranging from Harry Potter to Captain Underpants are frequent targets of censorship.

But banning authors?

"Banning authors isn't the same as banning books, but the intent is the same," says Hopkins, whose most recent novel, *Fallout*, the final volume of her *Crank* trilogy, just debuted at No. 5 on the New York *Times* series list (which is devoted to series of three or more). The trilogy (which also includes *Crank* and *Glass*) has been lauded by educators and reviewers alike. Its popularity among teens is rooted in Hopkins' pull-no-punches story lines that tackle issues such as crystal-meth addiction, teen prostitution, suicide and incest.

But it's her no-holds-barred approach that has ignited the current controversy. Upon learning that Hopkins was scheduled to speak at this school year's festival, several parents complained to the school board. The superintendent, after consulting with the head librarian, instructed the festival's organizers to remove Hopkins from the roster and rescind the invitation.

Since her books are available in Humble libraries, and because she had appeared at high schools in the district last year, Hopkins was shocked by the snub. After much soul-searching, she reached out to the other young-adult authors who were scheduled to participate. Pete Hautman, who in years past had been disinvited from appearances elsewhere after his work was deemed "inappropriate," withdrew from the festival. Then, in a show of solidarity, Matt de la Pena, Melissa de la Cruz, Brian Meehl and Tera Lynn Childs all followed suit. The district, in turn, canceled the event altogether. "As authors," Hopkins recently blogged, "we must maintain a unified voice against the idea that one person, or even a few, has the right to decide for everyone else what they are allowed to read, or what information they can have access to."

Powell was disheartened by the turn of events in Humble. However, she remains hopeful that the festival can be salvaged and believes the opportunity exists for a valuable teaching moment. "There could be a forum," Powell says, "where parents would be able to ask questions, raise concerns and share views and opinions. What could be more worthwhile than an impassioned, thoughtful tussle over books and how they affect us?"

Hopkins says she'd welcome the chance to participate in such a discussion. "I would pay my own way," Hopkins says. "We need to take back the dialogue. A misguided few cannot be permitted to dictate what's best for an entire community. These young people are depending on us."

Censorship is…(your definition)

Teacher initials: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. **TOTALITARIANISM**

To achieve his goals, Joseph Stalin, of Russia (among many others), created a new kind of government, today called a totalitarian state. In a totalitarian state, the government is a single-party dictatorship that controls every aspect of the lives of its citizens.

 Individual rights count for nothing.

Citizens must obey the government without question, and critics are silenced.

Also, the totalitarian state supports extreme nationalism (where citizens are completely loyal and dedicated to their government).

**The history of the concept of totalitarianism**

A simple definition of totalitarianism can be taken to be “a system of rule, driven by an ideology that seeks direction of all aspects of public activity, political, economic and social, and uses to that end, at least to a degree, propaganda and terror.”

The word was probably first used by the Italian philosopher, Giovanni Gentile, in 1925, during the earlier years of Italian Fascist rule, to describe a comprehensive socio-political system. Mussolini happily used the word, and while in general it usefully describes Nazism and Stalinism, Hitler avoided its use and Stalin saw it as applicable to Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany but not to Russia. The concept gained wider currency and became prominent in schoolbooks during the post-1945 Cold War period. According to historians and researchers, Totalitarianism has six key features. Totalitarianism is:

* An official ideology to which general adherence was demanded, the ideology intended to achieve a ‘perfect final stage of mankind‘.
* A single mass party, hierarchically organized, closely interwoven with the state bureaucracy and typically led by one man.
* Monopolistic control of the armed forces.
* A similar monopoly of the means of effective mass communication (TV, newspapers, magazines, etc.)
* A system of terroristic police control.
* Central control and direction of the entire economy.

**We have seen elements of totalitarianism in several governments of the past including:**

Italy and Mussolini. What Mussolini, with his grounding in journalism, did achieve was a skillful projection of Fascist ideas through propaganda.

The USSR and Stalin. Stalin vigorously followed a policy of strengthening Communist party power and, from the late 1920s did socially and economically transform his country. However he used terror, violence, mass killings and would destroy anyone who challenged his ruler ship. He has killed more people than Hitler did during his reign in Nazi Germany.

The Third Reich and Hitler. When Hitler gained power he had already promoted a strongly nationalist/ racist ideology for some time, especially in his book, Mein Kampf (1923). The Hitler Youth, Gestapo, and his Nazi party took over complete control of Germany. Anyone who did not accept the Nazi party, or even suspected as anti-Nazi, faced deportation to concentration camps or death.

**Totalitarianism today…**

Twentieth-century technology has provided the possibilities for the use of media (newspapers, radio, film and television) to ‘brainwash‘ citizens, and modern communications to identify dissidents and co-ordinate action against them.

Totalitarianism is…(your definition)

Teacher initials: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. **GESTAPO**

The Gestapo is Born

*The Gestapo was the “secret police” during WWII. They were Nazi soldiers who tracked down Germans who may or may not have been betraying the “motherland.”*

Although the Gestapo is generally associated with SS Leader Heinrich Himmler, it was actually founded by Hermann Göring in April 1933.

Upon becoming Chancellor of Germany, Adolf Hitler had appointed Göring as Minister of the Interior for the State of Prussia, Germany's biggest and most important state, which controlled two thirds of the country, including the capital, Berlin, and the big industrial centers. As Minister of the Interior, Göring thereby had control of the police.

The first thing he did was to prohibit regular uniformed police from interfering with Nazi Brownshirts out in the streets. This meant that innocent German citizens had no one to turn to as they were being beaten up by rowdy young storm troopers drunk with their newfound power and quite often drunk on beer. These young Nazi toughs took full advantage of police leniency to loot shops at will and terrorize Jews or anyone else unfortunate enough to be caught in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Next, Göring purged the Berlin police department of politically unreliable cops and had 50,000 storm troopers sworn in as special police auxiliaries (Hilfspolizei). Now the storm troopers had actual power of arrest and they relished its use. Jails were soon overflowing with people taken into "protective custody" resulting in the need for large outside prison camps, the birth of the concentration camp system.

On April 26, 1933, a decree was issued creating the Secret Police Office (Geheime Polizei Amt) which quickly became known as the GPA. But this abbreviation was far too similar to the GPU abbreviation used by the Soviet Political Police in Russia. Thus, the name was changed to Secret State Police (Geheime Staats Polizei). The actual term 'Gestapo' was supposedly created by a Berlin postal official who wanted a name that would fit on a regulation-sized postal rubber stamp. Gestapo was derived from seven letters within the full name **Ge**heime **Sta**ats **Po**lizei. Unknowingly, the postal official had invented one of the most notorious names in history.

Göring promptly began using the Gestapo to silence Hitler's political opponents in Berlin and surrounding areas and also to enhance his own personal power.

On February 10, 1936, the Nazi Reichstag passed the 'Gestapo Law,’ this meant the Gestapo was now above the law and there could be no legal appeal regarding anything it did.

Indeed, the Gestapo became a law unto itself. It was entirely possible for someone to be arrested, interrogated and sent to a concentration camp for incarceration or summary execution, without any outside legal procedure.

Justice in Hitler's Germany was completely arbitrary, depending on the whim of the man in power, the man who had you in his grip.

Surprisingly, the Gestapo was never actually a very big organization. At its peak it employed only about 40,000 individuals, including office personnel and the plain-clothes agents. But each Gestapo agent operated at the center of a large web of spies and informants. The problem for the average citizen was that no one ever knew for sure just who those informants were. It could be anyone, your milkman, the old lady across the street, a quiet co-worker, even a schoolboy. As a result, fear ruled the day. Most people realized the necessity of self-censorship and generally kept their mouths shut politically, unless they had something positive to say. Anyone foolish enough to say something risky or tell an anti-Nazi joke in mixed company might get a knock on the door in the middle of the night or a tap on the shoulder while walking along the street.

 Gestapo interrogation methods included: repeated near drownings of a prisoner in a bathtub filled with ice-cold water; electric shocks by attaching wires to hands, feet, and ears. Some of their tortures included: securing a prisoner's wrists behind his back then hanging him by the arms causing shoulder dislocation; beatings with rubber nightsticks and cow-hide whips; and burning flesh with matches or a soldering iron.

The Gestapo followed Hitler's armies into every country during the conquest of Europe. By pitting neighbor against neighbor, Gestapo agents established the same kind of terror mechanism in each occupied country that had worked so well back in Germany.

From the very beginning of Hitler's regime, the ever-present threat of arrest and indefinite confinement in a concentration camp robbed the German people of their personal freedom and left them as inhibited, dutifully obedient subjects.

Gestapo is…(your definition)

Teacher initials: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. **PROPAGANDA**

*Propaganda is the media and communications people manipulate to get their readers/viewers to believe something they want. Political ads for the election are great examples of propaganda.*

"All propaganda has to be popular and has to adapt its spiritual level to the perception of the least intelligent of those towards whom it intends to direct itself."

-Adolf Hitler, *Mein Kampf* ("My Struggle"), Vol. I

As Germany prepared for and carried out World War II, it implemented a variety of forms of propaganda. This was necessary for several reasons, but primarily to serve two main Nazi agendas. It was important to convince the public to fight and that it was necessary to fight. German had just recently gone through a power struggle establishing the Nazi Party as superior over the socialists, but it still lacked enough political support to go to war.

The main body of German propaganda consists of material increasing or fueling the wartime effort. Also, Hitler and many of the higher Nazi leaders harbored racism and wished to begin the extermination of races they deemed inferior. Although there was some discontent between the German Jews and other Germans already, it was still necessary to convince the German population that action was necessary against them. This anti-Semitic material formed the second main body of German propaganda.

German wartime propaganda utilized a variety of forms in its delivery. Much of the propaganda was implemented through the recently invented radio, as well as through speeches from the main Nazi leaders. Posters and other visual material were also widely circulated and vital to the persuasion. Much other visual and printed material, such as books and leaflets, was only circulated to specific groups, such as Nazi party members or soldiers. However, almost all the propaganda was spread though a variety of media.

As it was to the Americans, production was extremely important to the Germans. One poster which reads as “You are the Front!” advertises the significance of labor and production. Germany, which maintained a highly mechanized army of tanks, required additional production in order to combat the Allied forces. Posters like this, which demonstrates the importance of labor, were extremely common after the beginning of the war, when increased production really became necessary. Once the Reich leaders realized that their current forces would not be enough, the push for additional labor war strengthened. Other posters of a similar type often portrayed a union between soldiers and workers, or urged workers to “do their part” in the war effort while displaying graphic scenes of battle. Posters of this type often displayed muscular men at work, because masculine strength was thought to inspire confidence. This type of propaganda, also known as production or labor propaganda, was a sizable chunk of the German propaganda effort.

*Production propaganda posters.* These types of posters urged German citizens to conserve materials for the war effort. Although this poster specifically concerns paper, many drives were organized for a variety of materials. During the war, many materials that would have been commonplace and easy to produce during peacetime began to get scarce. Posters such as these prompted the viewer to help give to the Nazi cause. Like the production and labor posters, many conservation posters also displayed images of battle and urged the average person to “do their part.” When they did not show battle, conservation posters, such as this one, often depicted contributors cheerily giving to the war effort, pleased at being able to aid their government. In most cases, however, German citizens were reluctant to give up their luxuries. This type of propaganda is often titled “conservation propaganda” and was especially common in America and Germany during World War

Posters that read “One People, One Reich, One Führer,” was a piece of one of the most important parts of the German propaganda. By establishing a rudimentary worship for the Führer (Leader) that was almost mythological, Adolf Hitler was established as the absolute head of the government and to some a semi-deity. This inspired the public to work harder and do more for the Reich, having been convinced by the Führer propaganda that the war was a sort of holy quest or crusade.

The Führer worship also helped instill pride in Germany and the Reich among the German population. This type of propaganda was also heavily reinforced by speeches and radio broadcasts. Goebbels himself often spoke about Hitler, and did his part in his speeches and propaganda to continue to glorify him. Other posters, and many of the books distributed to party members, showed Hitler being adored by the public, especially by the German youth. Other images depicted him in settings meant to imply nobility or honor; for example, several pictures were taken of him outside with his dog. Also, Hitler had many portraits painted of him, which further serve to glorify him. This type of propaganda was very important to the Nazi cause in that it defined the Führer as an embodiment of all the good of the Nazi Reich.

The Nazis also created posters entitled, “The Eternal Jew,” served to dehumanize the German Jews. The film “The Eternal Jew” itself compares the Jewish people to rats. By dehumanizing Jews, the Nazi leaders began to prepare for Hitler’s “Final Solution.” The Nazi leaders knew that when the deportations began it would be much easier for the German people to watch friends and neighbors shipped away if they associated them with rats or with age-old stereotypes about cheating with money. The propaganda was able to play off the existing racial difficulties in Germany has well as to enhance the original nationalistic pride of the German people that they were somehow chosen or holy. Anti-Semitic propaganda was common in wartime Germany, and often depicted Jews in league with communists or another hated group causing harm to Germans.

German propaganda was extremely important to the course of World War II. By taking control of the media and only printing or broadcasting Nazi material, the Reich was able to effectively flood Germany with its propaganda. This, combined with the genius of men like Joseph Goebbels, created one of the most potent barrages of wartime propaganda in history.

Propaganda is…(your definition)

Teacher initials: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. **STALIN AND COMMUNISM**

*Josef Stalin, consolidated power to become the absolute ruler of the* [*Soviet Union*](http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Soviet_Union) *between 1928 and his death in 1953. Stalin was able to make his country stronger and more unified at the start of his rule; however, he used terror and violence to achieve is power, his methods for control became known as “The Great Terror”…*

*Here is a summary from the book, “Joseph Stalin”*

The "Great Terror," the aptly named period when Stalin effectively liquidated all traces of opposition to his rule. Large-scale purges struck the country, targeting all levels of society--including children: Stalin reasoned that parents were more likely to confess to trumped-up charges of subversion and disloyalty if they knew their children's lives were at risk. Then, in August of 1936, Stalin engineered the first of what came to be known as the Show Trials, in which he accused Zinoviev, Kamenev and their associates of conspiring (with the exiled Trotsky) against Stalin and the government. In an amazing scene that was broadcast around the world--and which played a large role in exposing the true nature of the Soviet regime--every one of the accused Bolsheviks confessed their supposed crimes. Only later did the world discover that these confessions were given after long months of psychological torture and physical abuse. All of the confessors were sentenced to death.

The Terror finally burnt itself out late in 1938, and at the Party Congress in March of the following year Stalin announced the end of the era of mass purges. But the campaign had caused lasting devastation--the exact numbers may never be known, but most historians estimate that *millions* of Russians were either executed or shipped off to the dreaded Siberian gulags between 1936 and 1938.

Perhaps the Soviet psyche suffered just as much damage, as an entire nation and its attendant culture sank into a deep-seated paranoia and a frightened submission to the state--the effects of which are still being felt in Russia today. This was, not coincidentally, the era when Stalin's "cult of personality" rose to overwhelming prominence in the Soviet Union, as history was rewritten to make him the hero of every circumstance, his writings were handed out to schoolchildren with a reverence once reserved for the Bible, his childhood was mythologized and every reference to his name accompanied by phrases like "Leader of Genius of the Proletarian Revolution," "Supreme Genius of Humanity," and so on: fear had conditioned the Russians to forego all independent though.

But even as the last opposition to Stalin disappeared on the domestic front, a new force was rising to challenge him in the heart of Europe. Adolf Hitler, had taken power in Germany in 1933--in part by playing on anti-Communist feeling--and Hitler's magnum opus, *Mein Kampf,* had pledged Germany to the destruction of the inferior Russians.

*Stalin ended up dying in 1953, but only after murdering millions of people and fighting against Hitler in World War II.*

#### What is Communism?

Communism is the doctrine of the conditions of the liberation of the proletariat.

The proletariat is the group of lower class people who are constantly being used by the richer, upper classes.

*Communism is the idea that all people share and work on the same levels of status, economically and socially. You eliminate the classes and idea of “private, individual wealth” and everyone shares their property and money with one another.*

#### What is the proletariat?

The proletariat is that class in society which lives entirely from the sale of its labor and does not draw profit from any kind of capital; whose weal and woe, whose life and death, whose sole existence depends on the demand for labor – hence, on the changing state of business, on the vagaries of unbridled competition. The proletariat, or the class of proletarians, is, in a word, the working class of the 19th century

While writing Nineteen Eighty-Four in 1948, George Orwell was fully convinced that the Communist revolution in Moscow was just a failed experiment, because the Communists got permanent ruling classes, which was neither elected nor determined by birth. For this reason they had to rule the country in a totalitarian style. If they had not done so, the opposition would have grown and they would have criticized the whole system. Orwell did not like Communism as well, because he saw that the Communists always had to find scapegoats to hide their own failure and their own errors.

Stalin/Communism is…(your definition)

Teacher initials: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. **Newspeak: the language in 1984**

**Newspeak** is a [fictional language](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fictional_language) in [George Orwell](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Orwell)'s novel [*Nineteen Eighty-Four*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nineteen_Eighty-Four). In the novel, it refers to the deliberately impoverished language promoted by the state. Orwell included an essay about it in the form of an appendix in which the basic principles of the language are explained.

Newspeak is closely based on [English](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_language) but has a greatly reduced and simplified [vocabulary](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vocabulary) and [grammar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grammar). This suits the [totalitarian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Totalitarianism) regime of the [Party](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inner_Party), whose aim is to make any alternative thinking—"[thoughtcrime](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thoughtcrime%22%20%5Co%20%22Thoughtcrime)", or "crimethink" in the newest edition of Newspeak—impossible by removing any words or possible constructs which describe the ideas of freedom, rebellion and so on (so words like “Rebellion,” “Justice,” “Freedom,” don’t exist in the world of 1984). One character, Syme, says admiringly of the shrinking volume of the new dictionary: "It's a beautiful thing, the destruction of words."

The Newspeak term for the [English language](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_language) is ***Oldspeak***. Oldspeak is intended to have been completely replaced by Newspeak before 2050 (with the exception of the [Proles](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Proles) (lower class), who are not trained in Newspeak and whom the Party barely regards as human).

### To remove synonyms and antonyms

The basic idea behind Newspeak is to remove all shades of [meaning](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meaning_%28linguistic%29) from language, leaving simple [words](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dichotomy) (pleasure and pain, happiness and sadness, goodthink and crimethink) which reinforce the [total dominance of the State](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Totalitarianism). Similarly, Newspeak root words served as both nouns and verbs, which allowed further reduction in the total number of words; for example, "think" served as both noun and verb, so the word *thought* was not required and could be abolished. Successful Newspeak meant that there would be fewer and fewer words – dictionaries would get thinner and thinner.

In addition, words with negative meanings were removed as redundant, so "bad" became "ungood." Words with comparative and superlative meanings were also simplified, so "better" became "gooder," and "best" likewise became "goodest.” Intensifiers could be added, so "great" became "plusgood, " and "excellent" and "splendid" likewise became "doubleplusgood. " Adjectives were formed by adding the suffix "-ful" to a root word (e.g., "goodthinkful", orthodox in thought), and adverbs by adding "-wise" ("goodthinkwise", in an orthodox manner). In this manner, as many words as possible were removed from the language.

Newspeak was the official language of Oceania and had been devised to meet the ideological needs of Ingsoc, or English Socialism. In the year 1984 there was not as yet anyone who used Newspeak as his sole means of communication, either in speech or writing. It was expected that Newspeak would have finally replaced Oldspeak (or Standard English) by about the year 2050.

It was intended that when Newspeak had been adopted once and for all and the Oldspeak forgotten.

Example: The word free still existed in Newspeak, but it could only be used in such statements as "This dog is free from lice" or "this field is free from weeds." It could not be used in its old sense of "politically free" or "intellectually free", since political and intellectual freedom no longer existed even as concepts.

...All words grouping themselves round the concepts of liberty and equality, for instance, were contained in the single word crimethink. It was a crime and there was serious consequences for anyone who said or thought about words like liberty.

Winston's friend (actually comrade, people didn't have friends these days), Syme, worked in the RESEARCH DEPARTMENT of the Ministry of Truth. Syme, a specialist in Newspeak, was one of the enormous team of experts engaged in compiling the Eleventh Edition of the Newspeak Dictionary....

"The Eleventh Edition is the definitive edition," said Syme. "We're getting the language into its final shape - the shape it's going to have when nobody speaks anything else. You think our chief job is inventing new words. But not a bit of it! We're destroying words - scores of them, hundreds of them, every day. We're cutting the language down to the bone. In the final version of Newspeak there'll be nothing else. It's a beautiful thing, the destruction of words. The great wastage is in the verbs and adjectives, but there are hundreds of nouns that can be got rid of as well. It isn't only the synonyms; there are also the antonyms. After all what justification is there for a word which is simply the opposite of some other word? A word contains its opposite in itself. Take 'good', for instance. If you have a word like 'good', what need is there for a word like 'bad'? 'Ungood' will do just as well - better, because it's an exact opposite, which the other is not. Or again, if you want a stronger version of 'good', what sense is there in having a whole string of vague useless words like 'excellent' and 'splendid' and all the rest of them? 'Plusgood' covers the meaning; or 'doubleplusgood' if you want something stronger still. In the final version of Newspeak there'll be nothing else. The whole notion of goodness and badness will be covered by only six words - in reality, only one word.

"Don't you see that the whole aim of Newspeak is to narrow the range of thought”

Newspeak is…(your definition)

Teacher initials: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. **George Orwell**

Born Eric Arthur Blair, George Orwell created some of the sharpest satirical fiction of the 20th century with such works as *Animal Farm* and *Nineteen Eighty-Four*. He was a man of strong opinions who addressed some of the major political movements of his times, including imperialism, fascism and communism.

The son of a British civil servant, George Orwell spent his first days in India, where his father was stationed. His mother brought him and his older sister, Marjorie, to England about a year after his birth and settled in Henley-on-Thames. His father stayed behind in India and rarely visited. Orwell didn't really know his father until he retired from the service in 1912. And even after that, the pair never formed a strong bond. He found his father to be dull and conservative.

According to one biography, Orwell's first word was "beastly." He was a sick child, often battling bronchitis and the flu. Orwell was bit by the writing bug at an early age, reportedly composing his first poem around the age of four. He later wrote, "I had the lonely child's habit of making up stories and holding conversations with imaginary persons, and I think from the very start my literary ambitions were mixed up with the feeling of being isolated and undervalued." One of his first literary successes came at the age of 11 when he had a poem published in the local newspaper.

Like many other boys in England, Orwell was sent to boarding school. In 1911 he went to St. Cyprian's in the coastal town of Eastbourne, where he got his first taste of England's class system. On a partial scholarship, Orwell noticed that the school treated the richer students better than the poorer ones. He wasn't popular with his peers, and in books he found comfort from his difficult situation. He read works by [Rudyard Kipling](http://www.biography.com/people/rudyard-kipling-9365581) and [H. G. Wells](http://www.biography.com/people/h-g-wells-39224), among others. What he lacked in personality, he made up for in smarts. Orwell won scholarships to Wellington College and Eton College to continue his studies.

After completing his schooling at Eton, Orwell found himself at a dead end. His family did not have the money to pay for a university education. Instead he joined the India Imperial Police Force in 1922. After five years in Burma, Orwell resigned his post and returned to England. He was intent on making it as a writer.

After leaving the India Imperial Force, Orwell struggled to get his writing career off the ground. His first major work, *Down and Out in Paris and London*, (1933) explored his time eking out a living in these two cities. Orwell took all sorts of jobs to make ends meet, including being a dishwasher. The book provided a brutal look at the lives of the working poor and of those living a transient existence. Not wishing to embarrass his family, the author published the book under the pseudonym George Orwell.

Orwell's interest in political matters grew rapidly after this novel was published. Also around this time, he met Eileen O'Shaughnessy. The pair married in 1936, and Eileen supported and assisted Orwell in his career.

In 1937, Orwell traveled to Spain, where he joined one of the groups fighting against General [Francisco Franco](http://www.biography.com/people/francisco-franco-9300766) in the Spanish Civil War. Orwell was badly injured during his time with a militia, getting shot in the throat and arm. For several weeks, he was unable to speak. Orwell and his wife, Eileen, were indicted on treason charges in Spain. Fortunately, the charges were brought after the couple had left the country.

Other health problems plagued the talented writer not long after his return to England. For years, Orwell had periods of sickness, and he was officially diagnosed with tuberculosis in 1938. He spent several months at the Preston Hall Sanatorium trying to recover, but he would continue to battle with tuberculosis for the rest of his life. At the time he was initially diagnosed, there was no effective treatment for the disease.

To support himself, Orwell took on all sorts of writing work. He wrote numerous essays and reviews over the years, developing a reputation for producing well-crafted literary criticism. In 1941, Orwell landed a job with the BBC as a producer. With World War II raging on, Orwell found himself acting as a propagandist to advance the country's side. He loathed this part of his job and resigned in 1943. Around this time, Orwell became the literary editor for a socialist newspaper.

Orwell is best known for two novels, *Animal Farm* and *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, both of which were published toward the end of his life. *Animal Farm* (1945) was an anti-Soviet satire in a pastoral setting featuring two pigs as its main protagonists. These pigs were said to represent Josef Stalin and [Leon Trotsky](http://www.biography.com/people/leon-trotsky-9510793). The novel brought Orwell great acclaim and financial rewards.

In 1949, Orwell published another masterwork, *Nineteen Eighty-Four* (or *1984* in later editions). This bleak vision of the world divided into three oppressive nations stirred up controversy among reviewers, who found this fictional future too despairing. In the novel, Orwell gave readers a glimpse into what would happen if the government controlled every detail of a person's life, down to their own private thoughts.

*Nineteen Eighty-Four* proved to be another huge success for the author, but he had little time to enjoy it. By this time, Orwell was in the late stages of his battle with tuberculosis. He died on January 21, 1950, in a London hospital. He may have passed away all too soon, but his ideas and opinions have lived on through his work. Both *Animal Farm* and *Nineteen Eighty-Four* have been turned into films and have enjoyed tremendous popularity over the years.

George Orwell is…(your definition)

Teacher initials: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. **English Socialism or INGSOC**

**Ingsoc** ([Newspeak](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Newspeak) for "[English](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/England) [Socialism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Socialism)") is the political [ideology](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ideology) of the [totalitarian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Totalitarianism) government of [Oceania](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nations_of_Nineteen_Eighty-Four#Oceania) in [George Orwell](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Orwell)'s [dystopian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dystopia) [science fiction](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_science_fiction) novel [*Nineteen Eighty-Four*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nineteen_Eighty-Four). It is a type of government.

INGSOC (“English Socialism”) originated after the socialist party took over, but, because The Party continually rewrites history, it is impossible to establish the precise origin of English Socialism. [Big Brother](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Big_Brother_%281984%29) and [Emmanuel Goldstein](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emmanuel_Goldstein) led the Party’s socialist revolution, yet Goldstein and Big Brother became enemies.

Ingsoc demands the complete submission – mental, moral and physical – of the people, and will torture to achieve it (see [Room 101](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Room_101)). Ingsoc is a masterfully complex system of psychological control that compels confession to imagined crimes and the forgetting of rebellious thought in order to love Big Brother and The Party over oneself. [Big Brother](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Big_Brother_%281984%29) is in charge of INGSOC and the ruling Party. Big Brother is constantly watching.

The purpose of Ingsoc is political control, power *per se*; glibly, [O'Brien](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/O%27Brien_%28Nineteen_Eighty-Four%29) explains to Smith:

In this government, every person exists only as part of the collective, hence, for the collective, nothing exists beyond the goodness of the Party and the evil of other nations and the Party's power.

## Ingsoc’s social class system



In the year 1984, Ingsoc divides Oceanian society into three social classes, the Inner Party, the Outer Party, and the Proles:

1. The [*Inner Party*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inner_Party) make policy, affect decisions, and govern; they are known as “The Party,” and constitute the upper class of Oceanian society. Among their upper-class privileges is the ability to (temporarily) shut off their telescreens. They live in spacious, comfortable homes, have good food and drink, personal servants, and speedy transportation such as personal helicopters and automobiles. No Outer Party member or Prole may enter an Inner Party neighbourhood without a good pretext. Inner Party members make up less than 2% of the Oceania's population.
2. The [*Outer Party*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Outer_Party) work the state’s administrative jobs; they are the middle class, whose “members are allowed no vices other than cigarettes and [Victory Gin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Victory_Gin)”, and who are the citizens most spied upon, via telescreens and surveillance. This is because, according to history, the middle class is the most dangerous; they are the ones to incite revolution, the one thing The Party does not want. They live in rundown neighbourhoods, use crowded subways as transportation, have poorer food and drink, and are denied sex for any other purpose than having children within marriage, and are expected to look at it as a duty, rather than pleasure.
3. The [*Proles*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Proles) are the lower class of workers. They live in the poorest conditions, but they can be considered as more fortunate than the Outer Party members since they are not constantly watched by Big Brother, and the Party keeps them happy and sedates them with alcohol, gambling, sport, sexual promiscuity, and [prolefeed](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prolefeed) (Fabricated books, pornography). A few undercover agents of the Thought Police do mark down and eliminate any Prole individuals deemed capable of becoming dangerous by spreading false rumours. [Proletariat](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Proletariat) are 85 percent of [Oceania](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oceania_%28Nineteen_Eighty-Four%29)’s populace.

If the Party chose, all its people could live in luxury, but they instead choose to lower the quality of living: It is important that the lower classes remain stupefied by poverty and the struggle for mere survival; if they were to become too comfortable, they might learn to think for themselves and rebel against the Party.

English Socialism/INGSOC is…(your definition)

Teacher initials: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_