

Objective

By the end of this lesson, you will be able to analyze key themes and symbols in the novel 1984 and apply critical thinking skills to discuss its relevance in today's society.

Materials and Prep

- A copy of the novel 1984 by George Orwell
- Notebook or paper for taking notes
- Pen or pencil

Activities

- **1. Character Analysis:** Choose one character from the novel and create a character profile. Include their physical appearance, personality traits, motivations, and actions. Reflect on how their actions contribute to the overall themes of the novel.
- **2. Symbolism Scavenger Hunt:** Identify at least three symbols in the novel and explain their significance. Find specific passages or quotes that support your interpretation of each symbol.
- **3. Current Events Discussion:** Research and discuss current events or societal issues that relate to the themes explored in 1984. Analyze how the novel's concepts of surveillance, government control, and manipulation of information connect to real-world situations.
- **4. Debate: Big Brother vs. Personal Privacy:** Divide into two groups and have a debate on the topic of government surveillance and personal privacy. One group argues in favor of increased surveillance for security purposes, while the other group argues for the importance of protecting personal privacy. Use examples from the novel and real-life scenarios to support your arguments.

Talking Points

- **The dystopian world of 1984:** "In 1984, George Orwell presents a bleak vision of a totalitarian society ruled by the Party, where individual freedoms are suppressed, and the government exercises complete control over its citizens."
- **Themes of power and manipulation:** "One of the central themes in 1984 is the abuse of power and the manipulation of truth. The Party uses various tactics, such as constant surveillance, propaganda, and rewriting history, to maintain control over its citizens."
- **The role of technology:** "Technology plays a significant role in the novel, especially in terms of surveillance and control. Discuss the parallels between the telescreens and microphones in 1984 and the prevalence of surveillance cameras and digital monitoring in today's society."
- **The importance of language:** "The Party in 1984 manipulates language through the creation of Newspeak, a simplified and controlled version of English. Explore the concept of linguistic manipulation and how it can be used to control and limit people's thoughts and expressions."
- **Relevance in today's society:** "Discuss the relevance of 1984 in today's world, considering issues such as government surveillance, privacy concerns, fake news, and the impact of technology on our lives. Encourage critical thinking and reflection on the potential dangers of unchecked power."