Questions to be completed for the seminar on Monday

The Big Ideas

1. Do people act differently when they know someone is watching them? Why or why not?
2. Do you think people need to be controlled in order to stay civil? Why or why not?
3. What is the reason so many people conform to what people in control tell them to do?
4. IS it ever okay to censor what people say?
5. What are advantages of technology? What are disadvantages?
6. Can a person ever lose their identity? How can this happen?
7. Does a perfect place ever exist? Could it ever? Why or why not?

1984 Thoughts

1. What are the benefits and disadvantages of Newspeak? What is the Newspeak advantage for the Party? How does language influence society?
2. Compare the class system within 1984 to the class system in today’s society? Are the similar/different? If so how?
3. Think about the term “Doublethink.” How does this idea allow some of the actions to take place in the novel? Think about all of the contradictions that are within the society for support.
4. IS Winston sane or insane? Explain your view.
5. Would you rather live under a totalitarian government that ensures everyone’s life will be peaceful and free from crime and inequality and a democratic government whose freedoms may encourage violence, inequality and crimes?
6. Why do you think the government discourages love and emotional bonds between people?
7. Did any of Orwell’s thoughts or predictions come true? Which ones?

My Socratic Seminar Notes

During the Socratic Seminar, write your questions, ideas, random thoughts, text connections, words and terms you want to know about…anything that aids you in your Seminar participation and your quest for knowledge and truth.