

AP English IV – Literature and Composition
SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

Required Reading:

***1984* by George Orwell**

***The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood**

***The Trial* by Franz Kafka**

Recommended Reading (students should read at least one selection in addition to the required reading):

***Dubliners or A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* by James Joyce**

***Atonement* by Ian McEwan**

***Middlemarch* by George Eliot**

***To The Lighthouse or Mrs. Dalloway* by Virginia Woolf**

***Wuthering Heights* by Emily Brontë**

***Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoyevsky**

***Dracula* by Bram Stoker**

All students are expected to read *1984*, *The Handmaid's Tale*, and *The Trial*. For these novels, the students will answer the following questions in a *dialectical journal* to be turned in on the first day of school. There will be a discussion and literary assignments about these books on the first day of school. Students may use their analysis questions for these first-day assignments, so it is important to answer them as ***completely and comprehensively as possible***. You may complete this work on separate sheets of paper. Teachers will check all written work for plagiarism.

What is a dialectical journal? "A **dialectical journal** is a conversation between you and what you are reading. You simply write down passages that make you think or interest you and write about your thoughts. This process is an important way to understand a piece of literature."

from: education.llnl.gov/bep/english/10/sdia.html

Directions: Read each and answer each question completely and comprehensively. Your opinion is important! Use quotes to explain your answers.

Reading inclusion:

1. The three novels follow the premise of a utopian/dystopian society. Explain and describe how each of these novels reveal societies that have an idealistic premise (for instance: protection of citizens), but evolve into a sinister or repressive state that devalues individuality.

1984:

1. Explain the idea of "Big Brother" and a society lulled into a state of totalitarianism. Describe how Orwell's concept of Big Brother is reflected in modern society.

The Handmaid's Tale:

1. Present an argument that defends and contradicts the notion of the novel's misogynistic society.

The Trial:

1. The novel focused on the senseless, yet inevitable fate of the main character. Kafka often alludes to social issues in his work, and it reflects in his writing style. What does Kafka relate about society when he writes about the trial?