

1984 Discussion Prompts Answer Key

(Sample Teacher Guide)

1. Is Winston a hero?

- Possible response: Winston can be seen as a hero because he risks everything to challenge the Party, even if he ultimately fails. However, others may argue he isn't a hero since he is broken by fear and betrays Julia in Room 101.

2. Could a society like Oceania exist today?

- Possible response: Yes—modern surveillance, mass data collection, and propaganda could allow a powerful government to mimic Oceania's control. Some may argue democratic checks and free speech make it less likely.

3. Is Julia's approach to rebellion more realistic than Winston's?

- Possible response: Julia's rebellion is practical and personal, focusing on small acts of defiance, which may be more sustainable. Winston's dream of overthrowing the Party is admirable but unrealistic under such total control.

4. What role does fear play in keeping citizens obedient in *1984*?

- Possible response: Fear of torture, vaporization, or Room 101 keeps people loyal. In today's world, fear of punishment, job loss, or social consequences can similarly shape obedience.

5. Does Orwell's warning in *1984* still matter in the 21st century?

- Possible response: Yes. Concerns about privacy, misinformation, and authoritarianism remain relevant. Orwell's message continues to caution readers about unchecked power.