

Name _____

Arguing About Rebellion in 1984 Answer Key

(Teacher Guide - Sample Arguments)

Possible "Yes" Argument (Rebellion is Possible):

- Claim: Rebellion is possible because no system of control can last forever.
- Evidence: Winston and Julia prove that private rebellion (love, thought, desire) still exists despite surveillance.
- Evidence: The proles, though unaware, hold the potential to rise up if they became conscious.
- Rebuttal: Although the Party is powerful, human spirit and truth cannot be erased completely.

Possible "No" Argument (Rebellion is Impossible):

- Claim: Rebellion is impossible because the Party has complete control.
- Evidence: The Party rewrites history, so no proof of rebellion survives.
- Evidence: Even Winston, who fought to resist, is broken and learns to love Big Brother in the end.
- Rebuttal: Small acts of defiance exist, but the Party's psychological power makes large-scale resistance hopeless.

Note for Teachers: Student essays will vary. What matters most is that they practice forming a clear argument, supporting it with textual evidence, and addressing a counterargument.