Welcome to 10H! Over the summer, you will read George Orwell’s dystopian masterpiece, *1984*. Please complete the two assignments below to show knowledge and understanding. We will begin the year together with a reading quiz on *1984* followed by a discussion of your responses, all of which will culminate with a literary essay.

**Annotating**—Annotating is an important part of close reading. By annotating, students interact with the text and begin to question, highlight, and comment on literary elements and techniques to increase comprehension and make insightful connections.

Annotating can consist of the following actions:
- Highlight or underline key words, sentences, passages that are interesting or important
- Bracket important passages
- Connect related ideas with lines
- Circle words or terms to define
- Write brief comments and questions in the margins

**1st Assignment: Individual Reading Response**

*1984* is divided into three parts, each of which chronicle a different phase in Winston, the protagonist’s life. For each part, you are going to write approximately one double-spaced page. Your responses will be assessed based on depth of thought, sophistication of examination, and clear use of language.

**Part 1:** Write a personal reflection that examines and comments on life in Oceania. Which aspects are most disturbing to you and why?

**Part 2:** Discuss how Winston evolves and explores the boundaries of his society in this section. Include in your discussion ideas about his relationship with Julia.

**Part 3:** Write a personal reflection about the last part of *1984*. What were some of the thoughts you had while reading? Was the ending satisfying or not? Explain.
2nd Assignment: Theme and Article

1. **Message quickwrite:** Why do you think Orwell wrote this book? What are his warnings to humanity? Spend fifteen minutes writing informally about your thoughts on these questions.

2. **Construct a theme using one or more of the topics listed below:** The theme of a text is a message about people or life in general that the text implies. The theme is not one single word; it is stated as a complete sentence. Some examples of theme are: *Integrity is honesty, not silence. To succeed, people need to struggle. By helping others, people can help themselves.*

   Topics of *1984*:
   - Propaganda
   - Totalitarianism
   - Surveillance
   - Freedom
   - Language
   - Power
   - Love
   - Hate
   - Control
   - Classism
   - Dehumanization

3. **Article:** Find an article that connects to your theme and the events in *1984*.

   **Select Internet sources carefully:** When choosing an article from the Internet, make sure that the source is reliable. If the author and sponsor of a site are both unclear, be extremely suspicious of the site. You can choose an article from a journal, newspaper, or magazine for this assignment.

   In your response do the following:

   **Title of Article:**
   **Author:**
   **Name of magazine/journal/newspaper source:**

   **Connection:** Write one or more paragraphs to explain how the article connects to a theme developed in *1984*. Examine both the article and the novel and make relevant connections.

   **Due:** The assignments are due on the first day of English class.

   If you have any questions about this assignment, please e-mail one of the 10H English teachers: Mr. Melamed- pmelamed@nredlearn.org, Ms. Vicinelli - kvicinelli@nredlearn.org.