# 1984 journal topics: April 2018

1. What does the reader learn about Winston and the setting and culture of the story? Provide quotations and page numbers that provide support for your observations.
2. Based on your understanding of 1984 at this time and course work, discuss what factors make humans vulnerable to fake news/propaganda.
3. Discuss in what ways surveillance strengthens the power of the Party and, in our society, the groups who control the data obtained from this surveillance. Also, how would these groups be weakened if they could not use surveillance?
4. Discuss the character of Julia. In the context of the story and time period, is she a feminist or has Orwell portrayed the only female character as a simplistic, “party” girl?
5. Discuss Winston and Julia’s relationship. Is it love? Or are they pretending to be feeling something they don’t really understand?
6. Based on Syme’s views on the destruction of words, discuss to what degree language can shape our thoughts.
7. “alternative facts.” It was a phrase chillingly reminiscent, for many readers, of the Ministry of Truth’s efforts in “1984” at “reality control.” To Big Brother and the Party, Orwell wrote, “the very existence of external reality was tacitly denied by their philosophy. The heresy of heresies was common sense.” Provide some examples of “alternative facts” and reality control in *1984* and the effect it has on the citizens of Oceania.