

Tilton School Summer Reading 2022

This summer we invite you to embark on a reading adventure - where you will read and really think about one of two major works -- *1984* by George Orwell or *The Circle* by Dave Eggers. Both books are considered satires, which can be defined as the use of humor or irony in order to criticize or expose weaknesses in governments, societies and individuals. Both warn readers about the dystopia that just may be around the next corner.

1984, published in 1949, was written in order to demonstrate the dangers of Totalitarianism - a government's total control over individual freedom.

The Circle, published more recently, in 2013, dramatizes the dangers of corporate control of personal information through technology. Some call this book a modern version of *1984*.

We encourage you to think about which warning you would find more interesting to read about, and then spend some time over the summer digging deeper into one of the books. Feel free to even read them both - as the themes within them build upon each other and create a fascinating picture of our futures if we are not careful.

Once you have completed your reading, please chronicle your thoughts in one of the projects below.

1. Spend one day tracking your time on social media (TikTok, Instagram, SnapChat, VSCO, Facebook). How much time do you spend on each form of social media in a typical day? Spend 1 day over the summer without any technology. Write a few journal entries thinking about the comparison between the two experiences. What was that day like compared to your normal technology use? Did you feel any different?

Better? Worse? Why do you think we all spend so much time on social media? What would Dave Eggers tell us about our technology use?

2. Essay on “privacy.” The term “privacy” has changed drastically in the 60+ years between the two books. Depending on which book you read, define the author’s warning about privacy. Can privacy still exist in 2022? Does it matter? Is there always going to be someone watching over us?
3. Create a colorful one-pager regarding the book you chose with the following design specifications:
 - a. A border determining what you think the main theme of the book is
 - b. 6 direct quotes from the novel that you feel determine the theme
 - c. 4 images from the book that you feel help illustrate this theme
 - d. 2 main characters names and 2 sentence descriptions about what makes them important to the plot of the novel
 - e. 4 words that you feel describe the main theme of the novel
 - f. One-pagers should use plenty of color and creativity!
4. Create a presentation to your peers about your novel (you will give this presentation in the first week of school to your class and teacher). What is the author trying to prove? Is he correct in his assertions? Your presentation should persuade your audience to a strong point of view and you should have some quotes from the novel to support your ideas.
5. Create a blog, screencast, or podcast about your opinion if there are similarities between the government in *1984* and the government today. Choose 3 researched examples from our modern day government to support your ideas to show these similarities.
6. Research present-day totalitarian states. How do they measure up against the world Orwell creates? Do you think the US and other open

democracies are in danger of falling into totalitarianism? Why or why not?

7. A project or writing of your own design.

If you have questions about what is appropriate to demonstrate your knowledge of your reading, you can email [Ms. Donahue](#) or [Mr. Landroche](#).

Plan to submit your work to [Ms. Donahue](#) on or before September 6, 2022. You may submit by sharing a Google Document or an emailed PDF.

Have fun!