

1984
Lesson 1

Power and Control-Creating a Totalitarian Society

Directions: Once you are in groups, each member must sign his or her name beside one of the following duties. Then complete the activity as directed.

1. Leader _____
2. Recorder _____
3. Speaker _____
4. Reviewer/Illustrator _____

*If there's a fifth member, please split role 4 into two parts. Please skip down to the instructions before reading the roles.

Role of the leader: You will do the majority of speaking when it comes time to present your government. You are also responsible for **coordinating all material**. Therefore, you are best suited to assemble and delegate all work after it's been completed in draft stage. You may be the individual to instigate the power point and then share it the rest of the group members to work on.

Recorder: Take notes **on all** discussions you've had. You will also write down the story your group develops on how you successfully overthrew a democratic government. You will put together your section of the report for presentation purposes and you will submit this portion of the project to me at the end of the presentation. So, if you're making a power point, your slides will be devoted to recounting **HOW** your group took power. You can think of this as your campaign or speech to prove how tyrannical your group is.

Speaker: You will aid the leader in speaking during presentations. You will also be responsible for creating the slides for some of the resources your government has selected. You need to include why these resources are best.

Reviewer: You are doing research on the country you've chosen. Find out their system of government, population, resources etc. Your job is to prove that the country you've chosen is the best for this circumstance and you must also prove that it's a viable option.

Illustrator: You are designing the slogan and adapted flag for your country. You also take part in designing the power point and any images for the presentation.

Instructions:

Your group has successfully overthrown the present government of a **small democratic** country. Now that you are in control of the government, you must devise a plan to stay in power and to maintain control over the lives of your subjects and political enemies.

Below is a list of items which your command staff has determined are of possible importance to the success of your dictatorship. Your group must select the **ten most important items** that need to be controlled immediately by your authority if you hope to maintain complete power.

Once you have selected your small democratic country and the items you plan to monopolize, please draft your information with your group. Include research on the country, how you took power, how you maintained power and why you're the best totalitarian group within the class.

You will have time in class to prepare this, but you should plan to work at home as well. We will present these in class. Each group will have a total of 8 minutes to present their totalitarian regime and prove how it is the most effective at seeming democratic, but really exercising as a dictatorship.

Step 1: Silently, each individual member comprises a list of **ten items** on a separate sheet of paper. There are no discussions or questions at this time. (Five minutes)

Step 2: The **Leader** will now moderate a discussion of each member's individual choices. As a group you must agree upon one list of ten items. A reason for each choice must be provided.

Step 3: After each item has been approved, the **Reviewer** restates the reason for the choice to the Recorder, who writes it on a separate sheet of paper. (Fifteen minutes for steps 2 and 3)

Step 4: The **Speaker** will explain the group's list to the entire class when called upon.

When presenting: Have a name for your government

A slogan for your government

A flag and symbol for your country (5 minutes)

- In order to receive a grade on this assignment, you must participate in the class discussion. After a group has presented, you must ask questions regarding that government's rule. The objective here is to have the best and most functional government. After all groups have presented, there will be a vote. You cannot vote for your own government.

The List:

Religious organizations	Music Industry	Public Libraries
Military/armed forces	Computer Companies	Government Agencies
Universities	Clothing Manufacturers	Museums
Elementary/High Schools	Food Distributers	Industrial Factories
Fire departments	Oil/Gas Co.	Water Supply
Book Publishers	Political Dissidents	Commercial Airlines
Newspaper/Journal industry	Chemical Producers	Telephone Ind.
Police Departments	Professional Sports	Worker's unions
Hospitals/Doctors	Banking Industries	Sci. Research Labs
Visual artists	Judicial System	Space Agency
Natural resources (lumber, mining etc)		Power Companies
Movie/TV/Radio industry		

General Class Discussion Questions: **To be answered after speeches. Typed and thorough responses.**

Could a totalitarian society exist in this country? Why or why not?

Must all of the above items be controlled to have a successful tyranny?

Does a totalitarian government need a leader?

Can people learn to love a tyrant or only fear him or her?

Is a totalitarian society with no crime/poverty better than a free society plagued with crime and poverty?