**1984 Discussion Questions – Shepard Academy**

**Chapter One**

1. Describe and discuss the setting of the novel—the tiers of society, the living conditions, peoples’ state of mind, etc.

2. Summarize the state of the world in detail—who’s fighting whom, who’s in charge, the wars, etc.

3. Explain the irony of the Ministries of Truth, Peace, Love and Plenty.

4. Analyze the country’s slogan.

5. Describe Winston as a protagonist. Do you think he’s especially intelligent or capable of starting a revolution? Why or why not? Is anyone capable of it in this society?

6. Explain Doublethink.

7. What do Wilson’s writings and writing style tell us about him? (PDF page 11)

8. Discuss the propaganda techniques employed by the Ministries (Two Minutes Hate, alteration of records and documents, etc.)

9. Are Emmanuel Goldstein, Big Brother, and the wars all real?

10. Why does Winston join in on the Two Minutes Hate? What does this tell us about society and the government? (PDF: bottom 18, top 19)

**Chapter Two**

1. What all did Winston’s interaction with his neighbors (our first look at other citizens) tell us about society?

2. Why are sports encouraged?

3. Talk about the kids and the encouragement they receive to turn in treacherous parents.

4. What do we learn about the nature of hatred/bigotry in this chapter?

5. What dangers are inherent in the idea of thoughtcrime?

6. Talk about what it would feel like to live in Winston’s city. Without having grown up in our modern world, would you understand why it’s so oppressive?