

AP Lit. & Comp. Summer Pre-writing

Democracy is dependent on an educated citizenry. Despots and tyrants, if able, will always try to control the populace. As a means of doing so, authoritarians employ strategies to gain support and eliminate opposition. To defend against authoritarianism, society as a whole must be able to recognize manipulations intended for devious ends.

A primary strategy used to influence the hearts and minds of people is the use of propaganda.

Propaganda is the dissemination of biased, one-sided information. The information may be true, false, or a combination. Propaganda is commonly used in advertising, in political campaigns, by governments and has become more and more prevalent in news media.

A second strategy often used is the use of a **scapegoat**. A scapegoat is a person or group unjustly blamed for the purpose of deflecting actual blame or for the purpose of swaying opinion. Politicians, in order to accomplish an objective, sometimes scapegoat a group of people in order to silence or eliminate opposition, inciting public opinion against them. Jews in Nazi Germany were used as scapegoats to attribute blame for social and economic problems and to create a common cause to unite people and therefore consolidate support.

A third strategy is the attempt to control language. Controlling language is controlling thought. Controlling thought is controlling people. As a means to this end, euphemisms are often used to disguise certain realities. A **euphemism** is a word or term used to replace a word or term that may be considered undesirable. A politician may want to raise taxes, but will not say so, since that is often an unpopular policy. The politician can advocate “revenue enhancements” and will face less opposition.

Assignment

1. Find examples of propaganda, scapegoating and euphemisms from 1984. Use the attached table to organize your information. Find 10 examples for 100%.
2. Find examples of propaganda, scapegoating and euphemisms in current events. Television news broadcasts, newspaper/internet articles, press interviews and speeches are some common sources. Organize your examples using the attached table. Find 4 examples for 100%.

Strategy	Text	In-Text Citation (MLA Format)
propaganda	"Attention comrades! We have glorious news for you. We have won the battle for production!"	(Orwell 57-58)
scapegoating		
euphemism		
Strategy	Text	In-Text Citation (MLA format)

[illegible]

Characterization

An author creates characters by three means: description, action and dialogue.

Use the table below as a pre-writing tool to help analyze characters, choose four characters from 1984 and record description, action and dialogue from the text that helps establish the character. In the last column, record your thoughts or analysis of this character based on the description, action and dialogue. For a 100% grade, record twelve entries. You may have multiple entries for one character. For extra credit, record additional entries, up to eight.

Character	Description	Action	Dialogue	Analysis

Character	Description	Action	Dialogue	Analysis

[illegible]