

**1984** Theme: The Dangers of Technology

When George Orwell wrote *1984* in 1949, technology was not nearly as advanced as it is today. However, he already saw the potential dangers technology posed to people's privacy and freedom.

Answer the following questions, thinking about how technology poses dangers to the citizens of Oceania as well as how inner party members fear the advancement of technology.

1. What are telescreens?

A telescreen is a television that transmits video but also has a built-in camera and microphone. Telescreens are a requirement in everyone's home and all public spaces so that the Party can watch its members 24/7.

2. How does the author say the progression of technology from print to television helped the Party seize control?

3. Do Party members use technology to learn and explore new things?

4. Why are Party members concerned about the rise of automation?

5. Why do Party members want to stop the progression of technology?

RL.11-12.2 Determine two or more themes or central ideas of a text and analyze their development over the course of the text, including how they interact and build on one another to produce a complex account; provide an objective summary of the text.