1984

Much of the Irony is built upon Paradoxes… (Satire)

Irony: occurs when the opposite occurs to what is expected

Paradox: contradiction reveals a truth, has an essence of truth

Satire: the use of humor, **irony**, exaggeration, or ridicule to expose and criticize people's stupidity or vices, particularly in the context of contemporary politics and other topical issues.

(Oxymoron: side-by-side contradictory terms, ex. jumbo shrimp;

Juxtaposition: conscious placement of opposite ideas in an effort to understand both sides)

**Examples:**

- Big Brother: not a benign/nice “brother” but a dictator who is constantly watching and threatening

- Ministries:   
Ministry of Truth – news, entertainment, education, fine arts… propaganda and “false” stories;   
Ministry of Love – law and order… most frightening;   
Ministry of Peace – war;   
Ministry of Plenty – economic affairs, supplies… very little food, rationed

- Slogans:   
War is Peace; Freedom is Slavery; Ignorance is Strength

- Doublethink

- Girl from Anti-Sex League with red sash – attractive, pretty

- Two Minutes of Hate – Adoration of Big Brother

- Words/books are dangerous – opening diary as criminal as writing

- cf. Christopher Hitchens – “Life of human being is completely pointless”   
Mr. Parsons – stupid, unquestioning, oblivious to “problems” of living in this word; type of person upon whom the Party depends (the Government)

- Different for Winston – is writing in his diary to carry on the human heritage, to stay sane

- Victory Gin/Propaganda – cf. “opiate of the masses” (Marx), faith in Big Brother (in today’s society – cellular devices?) and Winston’s “rebellion” against Big Brother: “Down with Big Brother”

- Youth League & the Spies – two organizations for young people in Oceania, ex. Parsons’ kids; children will become spies; spy on adults, especially on their parents; violent, frightening (upset that they aren’t able to go to the hanging) and the Anti-Sex Youth League – typified by the girl in the red-sash; attractive yet frightening

cf. Nazi Youth

**Prepare a chart or a commentary:** What parallels can you draw between the Nazi Youth (as typified in the video) and these two organizations in *1984*?