

# Let's Create a Totalitarian Society !

Date:  
Class Period:

**Premise:** Your group has successfully overthrown the present government of a 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.

**Directions:** Below is a list of items that 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.

- Step 1** Silently, each individual member identifies a list of TEN item on a separate sheet of paper. There are no discussions or questions at this time. Rank items in order of importance.
- Step 2** The Leader (a silent and non-violent rock-paper-scissors election will now take place) will now moderate a discussion of each individual member's choices. As a group you must agree upon one list of TEN vital agencies and arrange them *in order of importance*.
- Step 3** After each item has been bloodlessly approved, the group member who has an ink pen and the neatest handwriting will be called upon to record the group's answers. A reason for each choice must be provided (see attached).
- Step 4** We will hold a class discussion after Break during which your group will present and defend your answers.

banking industry	journalism industry	public libraries
chemical producers	(print and online media)	publishing industry
clothing manufacturers	judicial system	religious organizations
elementary / high schools	military / armed forces	workers' unions
entertainment industry	museums	scientific research labs
(movie, TV, radio)	NASA	social media (Facebook,
fire departments	natural resources (lumber,	YouTube, etc.)
food production / distributors	mining, etc.)	telephone industry
government intelligence	oil / gas companies	transportation industry
(CIA, FBI, Homeland	police departments	universities
Security)	political dissidents	visual artists
hospitals / doctors	power companies (electrical &	water supply
industrial factories	nuclear)	other _____
internet businesses	professional sports	

### General Questions for Discussion:

- 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 (or figurehead)?
- Can people learn to love (or worship) a tyrant or learn only to fear him?
- Is a totalitarian society with no crime & no poverty better than a free society plagued with both?