

# **“An Orwellian Interpretation of Stalin’s Responsibilities to Restrict Russian Rights”**

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## Process Paper

This year we were presented with the opportunity to participate in National History Day. When we learned this year's topic was 'Rights and Responsibilities' our group collaborated on many ideas. After several days of much consideration we stumbled upon an idea of the cruelties of Joseph Stalin in a novel we were reading in English class. *Animal Farm* by George Orwell was an anti-totalitarian novel based on the Russian Revolution and its aftermath. We all agreed it was a brilliant topic, yet we still needed to find the connection between our chosen topic and the theme for this year. As a group, we conducted research on Orwell's philosophy and his novel and we found how it was parallel to the real life events from Joseph Stalin. We decided to name our project "An Orwellian Interpretation of Stalin's Responsibility to Secure Russian Rights".

Conducting our research took a lot of time, especially finding primary sources. We spent what seemed like endless hours in front of our computers and at the library trying to find as many resources as possible. Our research was focused on finding anything about Joseph Stalin and his cruelties to the Russian citizens. Even though finding primary sources was not easy task we were able to pull it off.

We still needed to decide in what category our project would shine the best. We looked at all the categories and reflected on how our project would be interpreted. Group Performance was our best bet. We are all dancers and performers and were interested in expressing our interpretation by dance and song. Also, being inspired by a novel had a great impact on our decision; after all, the characters in the novel were animals. We wanted to incorporate as much as possible from the novel into our project, including the symbolism between the animals and the people they were parallel to in history. We also wanted to voice our research in a way similar to

the way George Orwell voiced it out in his book. Our project was created by having numerous group meetings and assigning ourselves a different task to have the project completed with enough time before the competition.

Our project, though inspired by a novel, is focused solely on the responsibilities Joseph Stalin had to restrict Russian rights. A leader's responsibility may be to protect his citizens, but Stalin took it so far as to deprive them from any rights because of his paranoia and greed for power. Orwellian's interpretation throughout his novel was based on that philosophy, that one leader's responsibilities may be corrupted because of his hunger for power. As a group we completely agreed with his philosophy.

(Word Count 449)

## Annotated Bibliography

### Primary Sources:

Anon. "COMMUNIST INTERNATIONAL." *133rd Birthday of Stalin*. Anon., 21 Dec. 2012.  
Web. 29 Apr. 2014.

This website provided us with primary propaganda posters that we used to interpret our performance. What made this website effective was that it gave a translation and unlike many other websites we used, it gave us a different point of view of Stalin that not many people have. It revealed different interpretations, with this in mind we feel we have gathered multiple perspective that were synthesized into our project.

Anon. "Historical Wallpapers: Joseph Stalin (Иосиф Виссарионович Сталин) (1878-1953)." *Historical Wallpapers: Joseph Stalin (Иосиф Виссарионович Сталин) (1878-1953)*. N.p., 15 Apr. 2011. Web. 04 Feb. 2014.

This website provided several images that were used in our background video allowing the audience to experience and grasp our interpretation and concept more clearly. Our group being visual learners, thought it was a unique yet effective way for us to adequately inform the audience. The images, all of Joseph Stalin, are propaganda posters/images supporting the reputation that Joseph Stalin tried very hard to maintain.

Anon. "Old USSR Posters About Stalin and Soviet People." *Internet Vibes RSS*. Internet Vibes, 2011. Web. 06 Feb. 2014.

This source provided more propaganda posters of both Joseph Stalin and the Soviet Union. These images were used in a video used as our background, but most importantly it allowed us to view into the media of his era and how he manipulated Soviet people's rights. Having these images allowed us to see primary sources and make our own interpretation from an artistic side of the government.

Anon. "SovietMusic.ru – Soviet Posters: Train from Socialism to Communism, Comrade Stalin Drives" *SovMusic.ru – Soviet Posters: Train from Socialism to Communism, Comrade Stalin Drives*. Copyleft Lake, Fall 2001. Web. 30 Dec. 2013

SovietMusic.ru provides many propaganda posters usually made by the USSR government. This was their way of media that influenced the citizens of Russia greatly. The propaganda poster cited above is a picture of a train driven by Joseph Stalin expressing how his responsibilities were to make the Soviet Union's economy boom. He did achieve that and therefore we decided it was appropriate to display that during our performance.

Anon. "SovietMusic.ru – Soviet Posters: Stalin's Speech." *SovMusic.ru – Soviet Posters: Stalin's Speech*. CopyLeft Lake, Fall 2001. Web. 03 Jan 2014

Propaganda posters and drawings play a major role in our performance. It creates a setting. This picture is a drawing of Stalin giving a speech. What we all liked about it was that his charisma as a leader can be seen in this one picture. An outstretched arm is a welcoming gesture, you can almost make out a smile, and it was perfect for a backdrop while one of our performers gave a speech.

Anon. "Soviet Propaganda Posters." -*Graphic Arts*. N.p., 2007. Web. 04 Feb. 2014

The following cite provided us with propaganda posters used during the reign of Joseph Stalin. The only difference between this cite and along others that we used, it provided a summary and facts about the U.S.S.R. Allowing us to comprehend the poster more clearly and not just make up a conclusion through the grafics. We used the images throughout our video to explain

Anon. "Stalinist Affection Illuminates the Future of Our Children." *Theoptimisticconservatives Blog*. N.p., Spring 2009. Web. 05 Feb. 2014.

This propaganda poster was used in our video. It portrayed what the speaker was saying perfectly and allowed the opportunity for the audience to comprehend our concept through an image that was created during the reign of Joseph Stalin to support him and make him look like an adequate leader.

Berezhkov, Valentin M., *At Stalin's Side: His Interpreter's Memoirs from the October Revolution to the Fall of the Dictator's Empire*. Trans. Sergei V. Mekheyev. New York, New York: Carol Group, 1994. Print.

Berezhkov, the author of this book, may be one of the last survivors of the events that shaped the destiny of Russia and the world. Valentin M. Berezhkov was an important part of Joseph Stalin's inner circle, where he found himself at center stage of international diplomacy, as an interpreter and translator for both Stalin and Molotov. This book was a source like no other. It allowed us to get firsthand accounts of Joseph Stalin from someone who, although was in his inner circle, still explained stuff in a point of view of concern and wonder. It supported our topic in the sense of how influential people saw Joseph Stalin, although it didn't give us much of a normal citizen's point of view.

Beriya, Lavrentiy Pavlovich "SovMusic.ru – Beria – Speech on Stalin's Death." *SovMusic.ru*.

CopyLeft Lake, Fall 2001. Web. 30 Dec. 2013

This is a speech given by Comrade Beria. He was the First Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers. It was given at a mourning rally dedicated to the memory of Joseph Stalin. This was a key speech to look at because it provided us with the point of view of someone who knew Stalin and what he had done and yet, how they fooled themselves and the citizens into believing that he was the greatest leader. He repeatedly talks about his success and how it influenced the greatness of their Motherland Russia. Of course, you would only expect them to say good things at his funeral, but citizens bought into this way before he died and they worshiped him. It was a source that allowed us to perceive other point of views.

*Martyred USSR, Militant Atheism, Russian Orthodox, Priest, Christian Persecution, Faith, Richard Dawkins, Marxist, Leninism, Soviet Union, Atheist.* Trans. Vika Mukha. Kevin Gonzales, 27 Aug. 2011. Web. 21 Apr. 2014.

This source was one of the sources that played a massive role in our project. With the information provided we feel we made the best interpretation possible. This site is dedicated to, but not restricted to, the religious restrictions the Communist Party in the Soviet Union condemned its citizens to. The goal of this source was to provide primary information usually ignored or unknown to the common public. This site also allowed us to reevaluate the rights Russian citizens had through testimonies, propaganda posters, and primary media footage. We then thought it was only adequate we use this provided information to complete our project.

Il'in, M., George S. Counts, and Nucia Perlmutter Lodge. *New Russia's Primer: The Story of the Five-Year Plan*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1931. Print.

*The Story of the Five-Year Plan* was a book designated for children from the ages twelve to fourteen to read in school and educate them, yet persuade them that it was the right thing to do. It helped us comprehend the concept of the Five-Year Plan from a primary source making it all the more legitimate. We used our interpretation of the book to complete, along with other facts we had gathered, our explanation of the Five-Year Plan to our audience.

Gonzales, Kevin. "The Persecuted -- One Man's Story." *YouTube*. YouTube, 07 Oct. 2008. Web. 19 Apr. 2014.

This was a video posted by Kevin Gonzales on a man's story, Vasily Vlasivich, and his story about getting drafted into the Soviet Army in the 1940's, but refused to take up arms and fight because of his beliefs. It was helpful because testimonies really allow us to put ourselves into the shoes of victims that survived religious persecution in Russia during the Stalin regime.

Militant Atheism. "Documentary on Militant Atheism in the Soviet Union." *YouTube*. YouTube, 18 Feb. 2012. Web. 16 Apr. 2014.

This source was a video that provided us with primary footage and primary testimonies on the destruction of the Cathedral of Christ the Savior, which occurred in Moscow, Soviet Union on December, 5 1931. With this insight we recognized that militant atheism was the official religion of the Soviet Union and the Communist Part was analogous to an established church. Their goal was to liquidate religion to enforce absolute power to Stalin, and that included the destruction of churches. We used some of the footage in our project to enforce and legitimize our project.



Mixalkov, Sergej Vladimirovich, "Anthem of the Soviet Union" (original 1943 Version)."

*"Anthem of the Soviet Union" (original 1943 Version)*. Trans. Alexander Vasil'evich Alexandrov.

Hugo S. Cunningham, 16 Dec. 2000. Web. 11 Nov. 2013

There are several versions of the Soviet Union Anthem, but this website provided a specific version that mentions Joseph Stalin. We thought it was important to include it in our performance because it shows how influential Stalin was and how he manipulated the media to make his citizens believe he was a hero, yet showed the pride of the citizens. It is a beautiful piece that at that moment provided the citizens hope and allowed them to brag about their country, so we decided to incorporate this into the performance.

Reaney, Joseph. "Red C >> Blog Archive Propaganda" *Red C RSS*. REDC, 17 Nov. 2009. Web. 30 Dec. 2013.

In this propaganda poster we see Joseph Stalin carrying a baby while the baby is waving the Russian Communist Flag. We used this poster as a backdrop to represent our interpretation of how Stalin supposedly picked up Russia with tender care along with communism being part of the reason why Russia is successful.

Revolyutsi Ya, "Soviet National Anthem(With Lyrics)." *Youtube.com*. YouTube, 12 Apr. 2008. Web. 11 Nov. 2013.

This video we found on YouTube was the Soviet National Anthem sung in Russian, but translated with the English lyrics in the bottom. Although the the Soviet National Anthem was a great aspect of this source, what we really liked about this video was that it had primary videos and pictures. We decided to use this source by playing it in the background while we are performing. We felt it allowed the audience to visualize with ease the environment of the Soviet Union during Joseph Stalin's reign. It certainly allowed us, as we are performing, to feel for the topic we are covering.

Rolg3. "Brutal Stalin Documentary." *YouTube*. YouTube, 10 Jan. 2013. Web. 03 Jan. 2014

This documentary posted on YouTube was a very gruesome, but helpful source. It provided us with video footage that we used in the background throughout our performance. It shows the cruelties and the restriction he gave his citizens from their rights. It opened our eyes to the brutal truth that Stalin was a man that had little respect for the regular human life. He cared not for the people, but for power.

Stalin, Joseph. Interview by Brian Reid. *When Is War Not Inevitable?* Marxists.org, 2011. Web. 28 Dec. 2013.

The following interview is a source that can easily be over looked, but we thought it was a key piece to conclude our interpretation of Joseph Stalin. It showed a political, yet personal side of him. It gave us insight into his opinion on war and other national power houses. The interviewer asked if Stalin thought a new war was inevitable and Joseph Stalin answered the question like any politician, but he let the interviewer know that he blamed the United States, France, and Britain.

Stalin, Joseph, "JOSEPH STALIN'S SPEECH ON RED SQUARE ON ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE OCTOBER REVOLUTION." N.p., Dec. 1991. Web. 3 Nov. 2013.

This speech was given by Joseph Stalin on November 7, 1941. He speaks about the German attack on Russia. Stalin says how the nation has gone through tougher times, and how the new Russia he has created will be able to defeat the German invaders. Now Russia has no down sets, but instead, are rich in food and military supplies. Along with their materials and equipment, the people of Russia will protect their country with their lives. We got inspiration from this speech and incorporated bits and pieces into a speech given in the performance, including a very manipulative line, "Under the banner of Lenin-onward to victory!" used very manipulatively by Stalin.

Stalin, Joseph. "On The Death Of Lenin." *On The Death Of Lenin*. Marxists.org, Aug. 2004. Web. 06 Feb. 2014.

Joseph Stalin gave a speech at Lenin's funeral that ultimately made him Lenin's successor. It was nice to be able to read this speech because it allowed us to make an interpretation and include it in our performance. Having this speech also allowed us to better understand Stalin and his way of speaking to the public, this was great because our performers were able to have something that they could model in speech and character.

Strømme, Øyvind. "Øyvind Strømme." *Øyvind Strømme*. Øyvind Strømme, 18 Nov. 2011. Web. 09 Jan. 2014.

The propaganda poster cited above was a poster that I thought was an adequate propaganda poster to represent how far Stalin went to try to seem like the good guy. It shows him in front of a map surrounded by different people from different ethnic groups. The message was to show he stood for equality and peace, and unfortunately his people believed it.

Toqtaqiya. "Soviet Union – Whirlwind of History." *YouTube*. YouTube, 25 Mar. 2012. Web. 30 Dec. 2013

This was a source that we used specifically for primary footage of the Soviet Union. We displayed the footage throughout our performance to exhibit the setting and events. As a whole, the video shows major events that molded the Russia we know now. It takes us back from moments of Lenin and Stalin to industrial advancements and war footage. The interpretation we got from this video is that the citizens were and are very proud of their country, Russia.

## Secondary Sources:

Anon. "Industry and the 5-Year Plans." *The Five-Year Plans*. N.p., n.d. Web. 06 Feb. 2014.

This source allowed us to compare and contrast of the successes and failures the Five Year Plan. The plan allowed the U.S.S.R. To rise in electric and machine power. The increase in coal and steel meant a higher demand of man labor, which we interpret in our performance as our horse character. Laborers worked to their death due to their persuasive leader who promised to lead them into success.

Foster, Peter. "NSA Spying" Likely Unconstitutional and Orwellian, Judge Rules. "The Telegraphy." *Telegraph Media Group*. 16 Dec. 2013. Web. 09 Jan. 2014

The article by Peter Foster helped us create our interpretation of the events that have currently and are still ongoing in our country. The NSA having the ability to spy on us is a violation to the 4<sup>th</sup> amendment and can be seen as Orwellian. The fact that a judge ruled that such events are 'Almost Orwellian' drew us in to thinking about inputting it as part of our performance. The article expanded our knowledge about the events and ongoing possibilities about what will be done to both our rights and Edward Snowden, the man who discovered such violations.

History.com Staff. "German-Soviet Nonaggression Pact." *History.com*. A&E Television Networks, 2009. Web. 19 Apr. 2014.

This site was a very informative on the non-aggression pact Stalin and Hitler agreed to during World War II. Although most was written in the point of view of Germany, we were still able to grasp the concept and ideals of the pact. Moreover, it allowed us to see Russia, then the USSR, in the point of view of another nation.

JekyllnHyde. "Daily Kos." :*George Orwell and Howard Zinn on Two Distinctly Different Concepts: Patriotism and Nationalism*. Kos Media, LLC, 6 July 2013. Web. 03 Jan. 2014

It seems to us that we should be paying more attention to the writings of brilliant authors. They force us to re-examine our assumptions and challenge us not to be swept away by blind loyalty or political conformity. It is our duty as citizens, and that's what this following source allows us to do. It makes you think. The author of this journal allowed us to dig deep into the meaning of patriotism and nationalism in order to make our interpretation of the latest breaking news about NSA having the ability to spy on us. The writer makes connections back to brilliant authors like George Orwell, who in his novels expressed his warning about the possibilities of corrupted systems.

Lamont, George J. "Animal Farm - Comparison of Characters to the Russian Revolution."  
*Animal Farm - Comparison of Characters to the Russian Revolution*. George J. Lamont, n.d.  
Web. 6 Nov. 2013.

This website provided us with a chart comparing the leaders of Soviet Union to those of the characters in the novel *Animal Farm*. We realized there are many parallels between the characteristics and events from the novel to history. It allowed us to interpret the events in *Animal Farm* with legitimacy to the events of Soviet Communism making our performance accurate.

Laqueur Walter, *Stalin: The Glasnost Revelations*, New York, MacMillan Publishing Company, 1990. Print.

Soviet scholar, Laqueur, study is not a conventional biography, but a bringing together and summary of revelations, that Glasnost, (a public policy within the Soviet Union declaring to openly discuss economic and political realities), made possible. He adds his own considered views based on years of close study of Soviet politics, but throughout the book, it is unclear if Laqueur intends a historical work on Stalin or a work on Soviet historiography. Nonetheless, it still provided us with new insights. Laqueur clarified many points, some still remained obscure, but some are probably unanswerable, except by Stalin himself.

Marrin, Albert, *Stalin: Russia's Man of Steel*, New York, Viking Penguin Inc. 1988. Print.

*Stalin: Russia's Man of Steel*, is a biography that is well written and to the point. It summarizes that of which is important to our topic, Stalin. Albert Marrin, the author, starts by introducing the reader to Joseph Stalin's childhood. That allowed us to now produce an elaborate background of our character. It was apparent throughout the book that Albert Marrin's opinion of Joseph Stalin was quite unique. He interpreted a dictator who although killed millions, still managed to leave a great legacy behind that impacts history until this day, but most importantly it educated us about the terror inflicted upon the USSR citizens. We created an opinion, greatly influenced by his portrayal, that accommodated our performance by allowing us to characterize the intimidation that most citizens experienced, revealing they had no rights.

McKinney, Stephanie L. "Joseph Stalin." *About.com 20th Century History*. N.p., n.d. Web. 06 Feb. 2014.

This source helped us really understand the true effects that Stalin's Five Year Plan had on the citizens of the U.S.S.R. Although he led many of his citizens to believe that this was for better, it actually caused "disastrous" results. This let us know what the true side to this plan was. We used our conclusion made from this source along with others to create our explanation of it to our audience.

Moore, Reverend Father Raphael. "In Memory Of The 50 Million Victims Of The Orthodox Christian Holocaust." *In Memory Of The 50 Million Victims Of The Orthodox Christian Holocaust*. Father Nektarios Serfes, Oct. 1999. Web. 29 Apr. 2014.

Religious persecutions along with national genocides have been common since the late 1800's. This source informed us on the number of deaths and casualties caused by the persecution of such governments like the Communist Party in the Soviet Union. What made this website productive was the comparisons provided of other nations doing the same thing and their outcome. This helped us compare and contrast along with concluding a globalized interpretation of the restrictions of citizen's rights.



Napolitano, Andrew, P. "Almost Orwellian" *Tenth Amendment Center*. Tenth Amendment Center, 19 Dec. 2013. Web. 4 Jan. 2014.

This website was resourceful in the way that it really made us think about the Orwellian Concept. It was written by a judge who has a lot of knowledge over the U.S. Constitution and he believes that the NSA spying on us is not only a violation of the Fourth Amendment, but he agrees that it is almost Orwellian, meaning destructive to the welfare of a free and open society. His point of view is from a very factorial perspective and a bit more informative than opinionative, but nonetheless it allowed us to put facts together for our interpretation.

Orwell, George, *Animal Farm*, New York, New York, Harcourt Inc., 1953. Print.

The novel, *Animal Farm*, played a major role in our performance. This novel by George Orwell is an anti-totalitarian novel majorly based on true events of the Soviet Union. As an allegory fable, it criticized capitalism and communism by using political satire. He uses animals on an English farm to tell the history of Soviet Communism, which has many parallels to true events and communist leaders. This resource educated us on the philosophy of George Orwell allowing us to make a more adequate interpretation based on his work of literature. Although George Orwell does not portray the purest light on the history of Soviet Communism, it is not a completely biased novel. It did although create our opinion that one leader's responsibilities may be corrupted because of their hunger for power and can lead them to deprive their citizens from any rights. We used his incorporation of animals to symbolize the leaders and citizens of Russia for several reasons. We understood that he not only categorized the personality of certain people and reinforced it within the group of animals, but it allowed telling a true story in a unique way that made it possible for the reader to interpret and get a broad idea of the subject without being judgmental.

Primary

Perez, Gissell. *Personal Interview with Liza Faida*. 06 Feb. 2014.

Liza Faida is currently an exchange student attending the same high school as us. She is from Russia and we had the opportunity to interview her and get some help from her. To begin, we asked her things relating to what was her perception of Joseph Stalin and what they taught her at school about Stalin. Liza answered that her perception and what they taught her in school was very similar to our interpretation of Stalin and they teach them the facts with no personal opinion. Secondly she very kindly helped us learn Russian for our performance. Liza taught us how to sing the 1944 U.S.S.R Anthem. She was so helpful and overall made us appreciate our topic and a new found respect for Russian history emerged in us.

Ramos, Fernanda. "The Animal Farm, Written by George Orwell." *The Animal Farm, Written by George Orwell*. N.p., n.d. Web. 06 Jan. 2014

This helpful source gave us a brief summary of the novel *Animal Farm*, and provided the historical figure that each character symbolized. It also explained some of the great events and themes in the novel, and gave the real life happenings that this allegory fable can be compared to. It broadens our point of view and interpretation of the novel and allowed us to fully understand the purpose of the novel and the complex parallelism to history, from the battle of the windmill to the symbolism between Napoleon and Joseph Stalin.

Rappaport, Helen. *Joseph Stalin: A Biographical Companion*. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 1999. Print.

While this biography provided an introduction and a chronology contributing an overview, the A-to-Z entries amplified a myriad of topics related to Joseph Stalin. The topics analyzed ranged from people/organizations to events and several things in-between. This resource was a great reference when looking for more information on something specific because the author provided a wide selection of topics. Not only was a large text range relinquished, but the information given on the topic was easy to understand. That allowed us to comprehend events and incorporate them into our performance with ease.

Shmoop Editorial Team. "Josef Stalin in World War II." *Shmoop.com*. Shmoop University, Inc., 11 Nov. 2008. Web. 21 Apr. 2014.

We came across this cite by accident, nevertheless, it proved helpful in minor details. With a simple summary we were able to better digest the importance of Joseph Stalin in World War II. With the addition of information, like the title Stalin had carried previously in the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, we got a general idea of who this leader was before making our own interpretation.

Smith, Benjamin. "Stalin's Role in WWII | Warzone | Yesterday Channel." *Stalin's Role in WWII | Warzone | Yesterday Channel*. UK TV, Winter 2012. Web. 24 Apr. 2014.

Dr. Benjamin Smith investigated the profound effect U.S.S.R. dictator Joseph Stalin had on both the diplomatic and military aspects of World War II. This source expanded our knowledge on the extensive role Stalin played in World War II by explaining the outcome of the violation of the non-aggression pact between the U.S.S.R. and Germany. It also let us in into the strategic plans the U.S.S.R. carried out in order to accomplish their goal. This source was a nice overview without a biased opinion on the casualties Stalin is responsible for, which was hard to find.

SparkNotes Editors, "SparkNotes on Animal Farm." N.p., 2007. Web. 26 Oct. 2013.

The SparkNotes is a website that summarizes chapters and interprets selective parts of a certain book. This website gave us a plot overview, background, and information of the author of the novel *Animal Farm*. We used SparkNotes most importantly to get interpretations of quotes from characters in the novel, which we incorporated for the characters in our performance to say.

Streissguth, Thomas, *The Rise of the Soviet Union*, San Diego, California, Greenhaven Press, Inc. 2002. Print.

This book presented us with a group of essays chosen for their accessibility that highlighted political trends and consequences of the USSR (Union of Soviet Socialist) and its pivotal leaders. As an adequate source, it played a crucial role to informing us more on our selected topic in a broader spectrum. Unlike most of our sources it gave an extensive view of the Soviet Union and its history dating back to the first revolution. It was one of our few sources that did not revolve around solely on Joseph Stalin. As an unbiased source it gave us factorial data that helped us create an informative background on our topic.

Thug Notes. "Animal Farm - Book Summary & Analysis by Thug Notes" *YouTube*. YouTube, 01 Oct. 2013. Web. 27 Dec. 2013

The video was a good source that allowed us to look at the book, *Animal Farm* in a different and creative perspective. The way they interpreted their analysis was in a very straight forward way that made you not only comprehend the purpose of the book, but also to connect the dots between the book and history. It was also helpful in the fact that they made some comments that really helped us mold our perspective and decipher on what path we wanted to take our performance.

Westby, Jody. "It Is A Scandal That No One Is Investigating the NSA." *Forbes*. Forbes Magazine, 30 Jan. 2014. Web. 05 Feb. 2014.

This article written by Jody Westby is a recent article that allowed us to comprehend the functions of the NSA and the violation they are making to our rights. The author goes into specifics making the audience comprehend her position. She believes it is a scandal, yet the government is doing little to inform the people. The whole article made us see the people point of view, which was very helpful