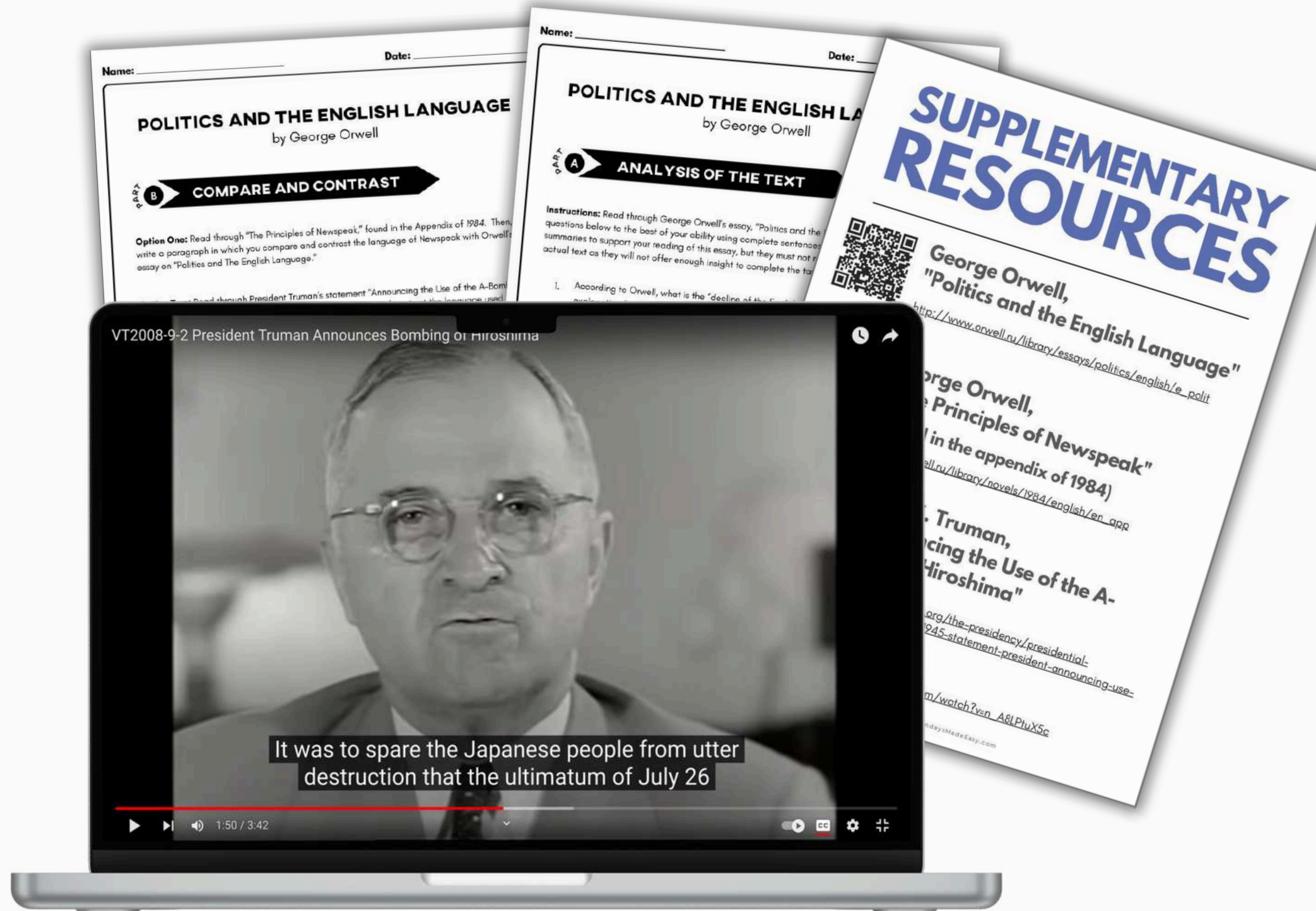


# Politics and the English Language Rhetorical Analysis

Explore the essential question: "Is language political?"



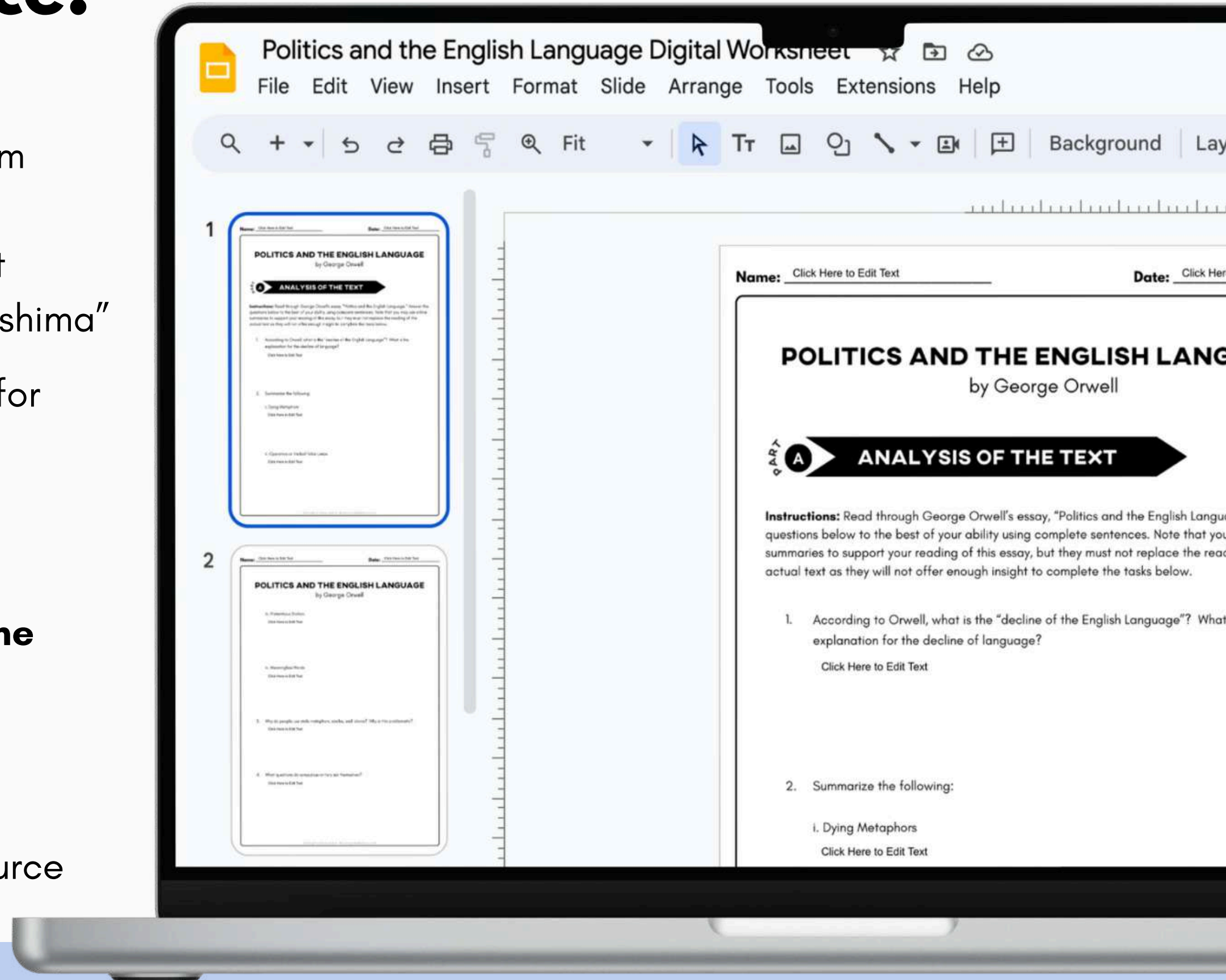
- Explore the influence of words through Orwell's "Politics and the English Language" with **guided reading questions**
- **Two-part activity:** Part A focuses on rhetorical analysis of the essay, while Part B involves a comparison prompt
- **Use supplementary speeches and essays** to connect and examine political and historical language dynamics

**Compare George Orwell's essay to the texts provided**

**PURCHASE HERE**

# Included with this resource:

- ✓ Hyperlinks to **Supplementary Resources**
  - Examine historical events and excerpts from George Orwell's classic novel *1984*
  - Explore Harry Truman's speech, "Statement Announcing the Use of the A-Bomb at Hiroshima"
- ✓ **Comprehension and Discussion Questions** for "Politics and the English Language"
- ✓ **Writing Prompts** for Comparison Paragraph
  - Orwell's "**Principles of Newspeak**"
  - Harry Truman's "**Statement Announcing the Use of the A-Bomb at Hiroshima**"
- ✓ Detailed **Answer Key**
- ✓ **Teacher Instructions** for how to use this resource



Includes Digital Version for Google Drive®



# Analyzing the Political Implications of Language

Explore Orwell's "Politics and the English Language" using this guided reading activity

Encourage students to read slowly and mindfully; with the use of this guide, they will be guided to conceptualize the political power of language

The image shows a digital worksheet titled "Politics and the English Language Digital Worksheet" displayed on a laptop screen. The worksheet is titled "POLITICS AND THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE by George Orwell" and includes a section for "ANALYSIS OF THE TEXT". The instructions for the analysis section are: "Read through George Orwell's essay, 'Politics and the English Language.' Answer the questions below to the best of your ability using complete sentences. Note that you may use online summaries to support your reading of this essay, but they must not replace the reading of the actual text as they will not offer enough insight to complete the tasks below." The questions are numbered 1 through 7. A yellow sticky note with a white square is placed over the bottom left of the laptop screen. A printed version of the worksheet is placed over the right side of the laptop screen, showing the same content as the digital version. The printed version has a "Name:" field and a "Date:" field at the top right. The bottom of the printed version has a copyright notice: "All Rights Reserved © MondaysMadeEasy.com".

**Politics and the English Language Digital Worksheet**

File Edit View Insert Format Slide Arrange Tools Extensions Help

1. According to Orwell, what is the "decline of the English Language"? What is his explanation for the decline of language?

2. Summarize the following:

- i. Dying Metaphors
- ii. Operators or Verbal False Limbs
- iii. Pretentious Diction
- iv. Meaningless Words

3. Why do people use stale metaphors, similes, and idioms? Why is this problematic?

4. What questions do scrupulous writers ask themselves?

5. Why is political writing lifeless?

6. Orwell claims that "the inflated style itself is a kind of euphemism." Explain Orwell's reasoning using the examples he provides.

7. What rules are offered by Orwell to improve the style of their writing? Rephrase them in your own words. How might they improve the quality of one's writing?

# A Comparative Analysis of Language

Two-part activity: Part A analyzes “Politics and the English Language” from a rhetorical perspective, and Part B includes a comparison prompt

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**POLITICS AND THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE**  
by George Orwell

**PART A ANALYSIS OF THE TEXT**

**Instructions:** Read through George Orwell's essay, "Politics and the English Language." Answer the questions below to the best of your ability using complete sentences. Note that you may use online summaries to support your reading of this essay, but they must not replace the reading of the actual text as they will not offer enough insight to complete the tasks below.

1. According to Orwell, what is the "decline of the English Language"? What is his explanation for the decline of language?
2. Summarize the following:
  - i. Dying Metaphors
  - ii. Operators or Verbal False Limbs
  - iii. Pretentious Diction
  - iv. Meaningless Words
3. Why do people use stale metaphors, similes, and idioms? Why is this problematic?
4. What questions do scrupulous writers ask themselves?
5. Why is political writing lifeless?
6. Orwell claims that "the inflated style itself is a kind of euphemism." Explain Orwell's reasoning using the examples he provides.
7. What rules are offered by Orwell to improve the style of their writing? Rephrase them in your own words. How might they improve the quality of one's writing?

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**POLITICS AND THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE**  
by George Orwell

**PART B COMPARE AND CONTRAST**

**Option One:** Read through "The Principles of Newspeak," found in the Appendix of *1984*. Then, write a paragraph in which you compare and contrast the language of Newspeak with Orwell's essay on "Politics and The English Language."

**Option Two:** Read through President Truman's statement "Announcing the Use of the A-Bomb at Hiroshima." Then, write a paragraph in which you compare and contrast the language used in this speech with Orwell's essay on "Politics and the English Language."

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**TWO-  
PART  
ACTIVITY**

**Includes Answer Keys!**



# Supplementary Materials

Make text connections using the supplementary speeches and essays provided to explore political and historical language dynamics

VT2008-9-2 President Truman Announces Bombing of Hiroshima

It was to spare the Japanese people from utter destruction that the ultimatum of July 26

**SUPPLEMENTARY RESOURCES**

-  George Orwell, "Politics and the English Language"  
[http://www.orwell.ru/library/essays/politics/english/e\\_polit](http://www.orwell.ru/library/essays/politics/english/e_polit)
-  George Orwell, "The Principles of Newspeak" (found in the appendix of 1984)  
[http://orwell.ru/library/novels/1984/english/en\\_app](http://orwell.ru/library/novels/1984/english/en_app)
-  Harry S. Truman, "Announcing the Use of the A-Bomb at Hiroshima"  
<https://millercenter.org/the-presidency/presidential-speeches/august-6-1945-statement-president-announcing-use-bomb>
-  [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n\\_A8LPtUX5c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n_A8LPtUX5c)

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Examine historical events and excerpts from George Orwell's classic novel *1984*

# See what others are saying...

Here's what teachers like you are loving about this **Politics and the English Language!**

★★★★★ **Extremely Satisfied**

I really enjoy the literature you choose to dissect with students. Its edgy and thought provoking and this is no different. In my AP English class we read Moby Dick and The Scarlet Letter which was not fun at all. I'm a huge fan of Orwell and it was fun reading through these questions. Thanks for sharing!

– Rebecca H.

★★★★★ **Extremely Satisfied**

The questions really help focus student attention on noteworthy aspects of Orwell's essay. I'll use this again.

– Melanie S.