

In 1984 by George Orwell Winston is at odds with the society around him. He lives in a controlling government and participates in acts of rebellion to subvert the control that is imposed over him. This subversion of the control enacted over him contributes to the theme of the book as a whole that that wherever unjust control is put upon groups, they will revolt and avoid the control that is enacted over them. This theme is shown in 1984 by the acts of rebellion that are taken by Winston. It is repeatedly shown and mentioned that Winston himself cannot do anything to dismantle the government in which he lives, but that by acting against the party and Big Brother he is showing that he has a desire to get rid of those oppressive forces.

In this book, Winston is an employee at the “ministry of truth” where he rewrites history to ensure that the party, and specifically big brother, are able to maintain the control that they have over the people. Winston believes that this is not right and rebels against the society around him. He participates in several acts of rebellion against big brother and the party. The first act that he takes against the party is keeping a diary. A main point of information that is changing throughout the book is who the people of Oceania, the country in which Winston resides, are fighting with. The war switches between being with East Asia and Eurasia, but the people believe, and are told to believe, that they have been fighting against the same country during the entirety of the war. This fact is one of the points that causes Winston to think about the society in which he lives. If the facts of history are constantly changing, and he is one of the people changing it, is there anything that is actually true? To combat the constant change of information and creation of misinformation, Winston keeps a diary about the situation he is in and the society that is surrounding him.

By keeping a diary and writing about his experiences and distrust of big brother, he has committed a crime, and even before he wrote down his thoughts he had committed thought crime. By committing these crimes, he has shown his opposition to the party and to society at large. He shows that he is unhappy with the state that the world is in around him and although he understands that the act of writing about it cannot do anything, he continues to write about his experiences as a member of the outer party. He writes about how he hates big brother and how he believes that the work he is doing is not right. This contributes to the theme of the book by showing an example of how Winston tries to resist the big brother and the control of the party. He knows that it will not make a difference, but he does it because he believes in it.

Another act that Winston takes against Big Brother is joining the brotherhood. This act is much larger, but just as dangerous as, the first act of rebellion he took. By joining the brotherhood and reading the literature provided by it, Winston has expressed further interest in acting against the control and power of Big Brother. Joining the brotherhood and reading the manifesto also did not affect the state of affairs in the world that 1984 is set in, but it does continue to show Winston's interest in acting against the control and interest of Big Brother. He again knows that there is not much that he, a lone person, can do to act against Big Brother and the Inner Party, but he acts anyway.

Winston's continuing perseverance and desire to act against the party in any way he can shows how opposed he is to the current state of the government. He knows that nothing he can

do will change the way the society he lives in is run, but by opposing the party and opposing the control in his own ways, he has made a stand against it. Winston is staying true to his morals and his beliefs and is continuing to act against the forces and society around him.

Winston spends a considerable amount of time thinking about how he could actually make an uprising or revolt happen. He considers the amount and number of proles and reasons that there are enough proles that they could rebel and take over the government, if only they realized the power that they had. The proles in 1984 never uprising against the government because they do not realize that they are being controlled, and are in fact not being controlled as much as members of the outer party are being controlled. They do not have telescreens and microphones constantly monitoring them, and their actions are largely ignored by the Inner Party and Big Brother. Their lack of desire to revolt against the society that governs them is their relative amount of self-determination. The proles are not under a huge amount of control, so they do not have a large desire to overthrow their government.

A major act of rebellion repeated throughout the novel is the affair between Julia and Winston. This affair shows Winston's desire to fulfill his humanity and be a real human. This affair continues to go against the society that they live in as it expresses the idea that the individual wants and desires of Winston and Julia are more important to him than the wants and desires of the party and the society. The characters realize how important this specific act of rebellion is, and realize that as long as they continue to feel their humanity and be humans, "they've beaten them." This continues to enforce the theme that when placed under strict controls, people will revolt and act against the controls. Winston revolts and rebels against the controls imposed over him and does everything that he can do to show that he is opposed to the controls that are placed over him. Although he cannot actively fight Big Brother himself and actively dismantle the party, he acts in his own ways of rebellion to fight against the party.