Totalitarian Powers (Powerpoint Presentation) Due Monday May 14th

A totalitarian power is one that demands unwavering subservience to a central dictator or governing force. Their ideology is based on the illusion of complete infallibility (meaning it is impossible to disagree with them) and is highly supported by many tactics to control the people's thoughts and feelings. When we study history and literature, we exercise our ability to identify patterns in these methods and, when necessary, resist against them when we recognize them in our own lives.

You are to research and read about a specific totalitarian power in history or current events and consider parallels to your understanding of the tyrannical powers of your novel. In a PowerPoint or Google Slides presentation (about 2-3 minutes) you will deliver your information to the class. This is an assessment of research, critical thinking, and public speaking.

List of possible choices\* (or create one of your own):

- A specific ruler or period of Ancient Rome (i.e. Nero, Caligula) or other ancient civilization

- A specific ruler of medieval/Middle Age England or Europe (Mary I, John I,

- World War Era dictators (Stalin, Hitler, Mussolini, Tojo)

- A modern power which commits crimes against humanity and denies basic rights to its people (Kim dynasty, Assad, Hussein)

- Other possible choices: Vlad the Impaler, Ivan the Terrible, Genghis Khan, Mao Zedong

\*Many of these figures, however controversial to our Western sensibilities, still may not be entirely villainous to some, particularly those who share their nationality. I realize that, and don't wish to shed a bad light on world leaders some students and families may uphold and admire. This list is subject to opinion and open to your own interpretations.

Try to address the following questions throughout your presentation:

1. How did the regime rise to power?

2. What crimes against humanity was the regime responsible for?

3. What tactics did they use to manipulate the masses and retain power?

Further tips and guidelines:

- Consider the visual effect of your slide design. Add a few useful images for context. Use text efficiently; don't type your entire speech on the slides and read it verbatim. Instead, try to converse about the material naturally.

- Don't just recite historical facts. Add your personal inferences and opinions as well.

**Aspects of an effective speech or presentation:**

Appropriate volume and clarity (Enunciate clearly; project naturally)

Variety of fluid, effective pacing; easy and pleasurable to follow your logic

Variety of emphasis and tone (not monotonous, but various in its sound)

Strong, conscious physicality (posture, eye contact, moving and using hands appropriately)

Limited pauses, “ums”, and other filler sounds (Avoid saying “like” as filler)

Confidence in your content; authoritative appearance

Play to a professional forum. Avoid explicit structures (e.g. “My topic is…” “Another con is…”)

Personable approach; possible use of humor (acknowledging and knowing your audience)

High energy and enthusiasm