**ENG 4UI**

**“Politics and the English Language” by George Orwell (*Thinking Through the Essay,* p.4)**

1. State Orwell’s complete thesis. In which paragraph is it located?
2. Does language corrupt thought, or is it thought that corrupts language? (This point is discussed in two places in the essay. Be sure to examine both).
3. After reading the five samples of bad writing, what two qualities are common to all five?
4. “Prose consists less and less of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ chosen for the sake of their meaning, and more and more of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ tacked together like the sections of a prefabricate henhouse” (6). Comment on the effectiveness of Orwell’s simile.
5. What are the four “tricks” people use to avoid the “work of prose construction? (6)? Provide an example of each.
6. What language does Orwell seem to distrust the most? Why?
7. What are the four questions (plus two others) that “a scrupulous writer” will ask himself (or herself)?
8. According to Orwell, what is wrong with most kinds of political writing?
9. List what the cure of language does not involve, and what it does.
10. Should meaning choose the word or should the word choose the meaning?
11. List Orwell’s six rules. Memorize them.
12. Find and make note of the sentence in Orwell’s final paragraph which restates his thesis.