

**CMS876 History of Media and Technology: Eternal War  
Assignment#1 reading response paper**

**Write a response to one of the following questions utilizing in your answer at least two sources from the assigned course reading and one independent source.**

**1. Theme: information warfare**

**A popular bumper sticker that appeared after the commencement of Operation Iraqi freedom reads, "FREEDOM IS NOT FREE." In the novel 1984, author George Orwell uses the following slogans to stimulate popular support for an eternal war:**

**WAR IS PEACE**

**FREEDOM IS SLAVERY**

**IGNORANCE IS STRENGTH**

**Comment on the logic and strategy of the two propaganda techniques. Why might statements that present apparent contradictions be actually effective media tools? Is there a difference in value (irony, etc.) between the bumper-sticker slogan and the sloganeering in the novel?**

**2. Military historian Martin Van Creveld writes in Technology and War, "[T]here is more to technology than hardware alone. Technology is perhaps best understood as an abstract system of knowledge, an attitude towards life and a method for solving its problems" (312). Comment.**