

The 2016 election in the United States has stirred up controversy around the globe. Slogans and commentaries fill social media and news outlets. Trump is going to kill us. Hillary could have saved us. Every day, a new expert attempts to explain the election and how Trump could have possibly won. Some of the most interesting analyses are those that probe the psychological factors at play. Why do people vote the way they vote? How do those in power get that power and how do they keep it? George Orwell asked these questions too, but he asked them over seventy years ago through the words and actions of talking animals on a communist farm. One of the most significant veins that Orwell probed was the complex relationship between society and the individual. What he reveals is unsettling. People are not dissimilar to domesticated animals on an English farm. George Orwell uses pigs and horses and dogs in his novella *Animal Farm* to demonstrate the ease with which those in power manipulate the individual and society.

(T/A) Napoleon and his entourage manipulate individuals in order to ensure their own power and privilege. (A) In particular, Napoleon and Squealer control specific animals who pose a threat to the pigs' dominance. (A) By controlling the individual, the pigs can control the society. (A) For example, keeping Boxer under control ensures a constant and productive work force. (A) If Boxer were to question Napoleon's authority or just stop working, then the social structure would falter. (A) The pigs understand this tenuous structure and go out of their way to keep Boxer, and by extension the other animals, contained. (P/E) For example, when the animals question Snowball's expulsion from the farm, Squealer retorts: "Bravery is not enough...Loyalty and obedience are more important" (Orwell 22).

(P/A) Boxer is so moved by Squealer's talk of loyalty that the old horse immediately adopts an additional motto for himself: "Napoleon is always right." (P) Boxer also recommits himself to the windmill project and the animals who might have been questioning the pigs' leadership techniques fall back in line, or at least most of them do. (A) The farm animals respect Boxer so they will follow his lead. (A) If he works hard, they work hard. (A) If he follows Napoleon, they follow Napoleon. (A/C) Control the individual; control the group.

(T) The animals are obviously capable of working together toward a common goal so why don't they ban together to take out their porcine tormentor?

(P/E) When Jones' treatment of the animals becomes unbearable, the animals put their rebel plans into action and rid themselves of their tormentor: "... the animals chased Jones and his men out on to the road and slammed the five-barred gate behind them" (Orwell 8).