Professor William Lutz writes that “doublespeak is not the product of careless language or sloppy thinking.” Rather it is “the product of clear thinking and is language carefully designed… to mislead… to distort reality… to corrupt the mind.”

**Do this first part as a group.**

1. When a car salesman says it is "pre-owned," s/he really means

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1. When the Secretary of Defense says there was "collateral damage," s/ he really means

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1. When a CEO says the company is "downsizing," s/he really means

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1. When a boss says your “services are no longer required,” it means you are

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1. When a general says information gathered by “[intelligence](http://www.spiritus-temporis.com/intelligence-%28information-gathering%29/),” s/he really means

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1. When a general says that someone underwent “physical persuasion,” s/he really means

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1. When the president refers to the [Department of Defense](http://www.spiritus-temporis.com/department-of-defense/), s/he really means

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1. When a general says the “we engaged the enemy,” s/he really means

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1. When a general calls someone a “terrorist,” s/he really means

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1. When historians refer to “[Concentration Camp](http://www.spiritus-temporis.com/concentration-camp/)s,” they really mean

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1. When the newspaper talks of “[ethnic cleansing](http://www.spiritus-temporis.com/ethnic-cleansing/),” it really means

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1. When the newspaper talks of our ally’s “freedom fighters,” it really means

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1. When historians refer to “internment facilities,” they really mean

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1. When the police discuss someone as a “person of interest,” they really mean

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1. When business owners talk of “undocumented workers,” they really mean

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1. When magazines discuss someone as a “senior citizen,” they really mean

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1. When Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld talked of “weapons of mass destruction,” he really meant

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1. When Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld talked of "[Operation Iraqi Freedom](http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php?title=Operation_Iraqi_Freedom)," he really means

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1. When a weather person talks of “climate change,” s/he really means

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1. When a teacher talks of a “curving the test,” s/he really means

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**Do this last part individually.**

Do you think that doublespeak is dangerous? Explain your opinion using reasons and examples. Write your answer in paragraph form (8-10 sentences) on your own paper. You will turn this in separately from this paper and you will get an individual grade for the paragraph.