

PROPAGANDA WARS

Reading Guide

Discussing a book with friends is a great way to get more out of your reading experience.

HOW TO HOLD A BOOK CLUB:

Read the book, noting any important page numbers (or highlighting passages on your e-reader) as you go. Take notes as you read.

Choose eight to ten questions about the book. Try to avoid questions that are too general, or which have simple yes/no answers. Ideally, you want to ask questions that are open-ended, but get readers to focus on the themes of the book, and how it relates to deeper issues. You'll find suggestions for discussing *Propaganda Wars* below.

Discuss! Remember to avoid dismissing other people's comments, even if you disagree. ThoughtCo also recommends avoiding the words 'like' and 'dislike' - they aren't helpful in moving the discussion forward and can make other people feel defensive. Focus on your experience, and how you felt as you read the book, supporting your views with specific passages from the book. (This is a literary analysis technique called 'close reading').

SAMPLE QUESTIONS:

Before diving in:

What did you expect from *Propaganda Wars*? Did the book fulfil those expectations? Why/why not?

How would you briefly describe the book to a friend?

How would you describe the plot?

Characters:

Propaganda Wars is told from the perspective of two characters, Adria, who travels from the Noreast to the Souwest, and Wesley, who makes the opposite journey. Which character did you most relate to? Why?

Who was your favourite character? Your least favourite?

Did any of the characters remind you of someone in your own life—a friend, family member, boss, co-worker?

Would you want to meet any of the characters? What would you ask or say to them?

If you were making a movie of this book, who would you cast as Adria? As Wesley? Who should play the General? Cheesy?

Creative or professional identity and integrity is an important theme in *Propaganda Wars*. How do their journeys shape the ways in which Wesley and Adria define themselves?

What motivates Wesley? Adria? What do you think their main goals in life are at the beginning of the novel? And at the end?

Setting/theme:

Which real world country/countries does the Noreast remind you of? The Souwest?

Which country is the most similar to the one you grew up in – the Souwest or the Noreast?

Which would you prefer to live in?

What do you think is the most important value of Noreasterners? Souwesterners?

How did you feel when the wall was abolished?

What is the significance of grapes and other fruit in *Propaganda Wars*?

What did you know about advertising, political psychology, and propaganda before you began reading this book? Did the story reflect what you already knew? Do you feel the book helped enhance your understanding of the subject? (For more information on manipulation tactics, check out sarahneofield.com/resources)

Have you gained a new perspective—or did the book affirm your prior views?

Are the book's positions controversial? How so?

End:

Did the book end the way you expected, or were you surprised? Was it neatly wrapped up—maybe too neatly? Or was the story unresolved, ending on an ambiguous note?

Can you pick out a passage that strikes you as particularly profound or interesting?

What is the central idea or premise of *Propaganda Wars*?

How do the problems raised in the book relate to mass and social media, government surveillance, and censorship around the world today?

Does the author—or can you—offer solutions to the issues raised in the book? Who would implement those solutions? How probable is success?

What three words would you use to summarise this book?

What, if anything, set this book apart from others you've read in a similar genre?

Who would you recommend this book to?

If you were to talk with the author, what would you want to know? (You can connect with @sarahneofield on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/sarahneofield) or [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/sarahneofield))

If you enjoyed *Propaganda Wars* please leave a review at your favourite retailer, or on [Goodreads!](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/25811178-Propaganda-Wars) You may also enjoy my other novel, [Number Eight Crispy Chicken](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/25811178-Propaganda-Wars).

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