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Writing Project for *The Handmaid's Tale*

(3-5 pages w/bibliography) DUE _____

The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood is a reactionary novel to events that were headlining the news in the 1960's and 1970's. And, many of the issues that irked Atwood when she wrote this novel still are in the news today. You probably noticed that the attitudes exhibited by many of the characters are those you have held about current events. For this paper, you can pull the three together – attitudes in the novel, those you may have experienced, and current events in recent news reports.

Select five current news or feature stories from television or news magazines that you think one or more of the characters from *The Handmaid's Tale* would be interested in. Then in your paper, explain how your character(s) would respond to each of the stories and the opinions your character(s) would have about what was happening in the story.

Ideas for organization:

- Identify your character(s) and describe their personality, using quotations or direct reference to incidents in the novel to substantiate your claims about the character(s). What general issues interest your character(s).
- Indicate which of the issues “bother” or interest you.
- Categorize the news items, then summarize them and document the sources from which you garner this information.
- Explain how you and your character(s) would respond to the current events you've summarized. You may **show your attitude through choice of words and images** (which is the way writers reflect TONE (author's attitude toward a particular subject about which the author is writing)).
- You may be creative in your organization – writing a short story, a TV or movie script, a research paper, or a traditional essay. What is critical is that you show you understand the personality and motivation of the characters in the novel and that you include, with documentation, five current news events.