

Handmaid's Tale Essay Notes

Themes in The Handmaid's Tale:

- Oppression
- Class
- Religion
- Gender Roles: Masc. / Femininity
- Church + State
- Sex / Sexuality
- Feminism / The Feminist Movement
- Patriarchy
- Reproductive Rights - Fertility
- Human Rights
- Freedom to VS. Freedom from
- Power
- Civil Unrest / Rebellion
- Conspiracy
- Mental Freedom
- Language + Literacy
- Power of Words
- Vision / Sight
- Racism
- Nationalism
- Love
- Democracy
- Totalitarianism
- Mysogyny (Hatred of Women)
- Family Structure
- Media
- Science
- Justice
- Superiority
- Identity

For essay:

1 Theme: Language

Multi Themes: Power
Gender-Language-Class

Format For An Argumentative Essay

Introduction

1. Hook

- Start w/ Author / title
- Plot Summary (3 or so sentences)
- Context / Background
- Theme

2. Thesis Statement

- "3D" Statement → What - What is Atwood's Argument or Point About theme?
How - How does Atwood Make this Point?
Why - why Make the argument about the theme?
- 1-3 Sentences

3. Body Paragraphs

Subclaim (Topic Sentence) - Mini-Argument that Connects to thesis.

Evidence - Quote or Paraphrased Scene that Shows/Connects to your Subclaim

Analysis - Unpack how Author Creates Meaning

Significance - So What?

CONCLUSIONS COMING
SOON!

To write:

1. Pick Theme
2. Gather Evidence

└ Interpret

‘What is Atwood’s Point Here?’