

Grade 9 into Grade 10 Honors – The Handmaid’s Tale (Margaret Atwood)

1. You must get *The Handmaid’s Tale* from the library and read it over the break.
2. Use sticky notes throughout your reading to annotate the book and highlight key developments.
3. Write a 750-1000 word response to the prompt you have chosen in the form of a well-organized essay. You should provide substantial textual support for your claims by including direct quotations from the novel and in-text citations (MLA).

You may use external sources, but do not have to.

The essay should be typed and double-spaced.

Prompt Choices: (choose one)

- 1) *The Handmaid’s Tale* satirizes many political and social issues. Write an essay in which you analyze how Margaret Atwood uses details, imagery, diction, language and syntax to explore this issue and explain how the issue contributes to the meaning of the work as a whole.
- 2) Novels and plays often depict characters caught between colliding cultures – national, regional, ethnic, religious, institutional. Such collisions can call a character’s sense of identity into question. Explore how Offred responds to such a cultural collision in *The Handmaid’s Tale*. Then write a well-organized essay in which you describe the character’s response and explain its relevance to the work as a whole.