

Our class discussion and analysis of *The Handmaid's Tale* has centered heavily on literary, thematic analysis -- for this assignment, you are invited to use our close reading skills to make more personal and creative connections. You will turn in **TWO lit logs** to help you to synthesize and process what you've read and deepen your understanding of the novel. There are four prompts -- choose any two to complete.

#### Each Lit Log should:

- Present your unique, insightful, specific response to the prompt - the opposite of generic
- Include evidence of close reading -- multiple direct quotes from the text (with page numbers)
- meet a target length of 750 words
- Have an engaging title
- be posted on the class Slate blog on the date it is due
- be submitted as a link on Canvas for credit

#### LIT LOG DUE DATES

#1 - Monday, 9/29

#2 - Monday, 10/12

(Respond to a different prompt for each deadline)

#### Lit Log Assignment Options

1. Track your own intellectual and emotional experience through a **close reading** of a particular section. You are encouraged to tackle sections that you have found confusing, uncomfortable, or intriguing. You can write this in first person, citing specific examples from this selection as well as other parts of the novel that connect these ideas. Your selected text can be as short as one sentence or paragraph, and should not be from one of the sections we've used as an all-class close reading.
2. Create a **visual representation** of a scene or a moment from the reading. Include a write-up explanation of the piece. What is your artwork about? Why did you make the choices you made to create the scene in this way? What is portrayed in your scene and why is it significant? (500 word count minimum for the artist's statement, separate from artwork)
3. Write a **reader response** journal entry. What about this selection resonates with you? What connections can you make to your own life and personal history? Cite specific examples from the selection, as well as specific stories from your life and experiences, then discuss why you react to them the way you do.
4. Even though music is entirely absent from Gilead, make a **playlist** for what you've been reading. Identify five songs that you would include as connections to specific moments, characters, motifs, or themes of the novel. For each song, write an explanation analyzing how the song connects to events in the novel using specific textual evidence to cite the novel. This submission must include an audio component: you may select to record your entire analysis including clips from the songs into a single file, or you may choose to add playable YouTube links into your Slate post. (Please do not research the Hulu show and pull from its playlist. This will bum us out and earn an automatic zero.)

## Rubric for Grading (Each Lit Log is worth 20 total points)

An assignment that **exceeds expectations**:

**DESIGN** // Lit Log engages with the prompt in a specific, insightful way, avoiding generic and surface-level commentary.

**KNOWLEDGE** // All claims and evidence are accurate and text-based.

**APPLICATION** // Writer demonstrates “reading between the lines” of the text; close reading is evident in deep analysis.

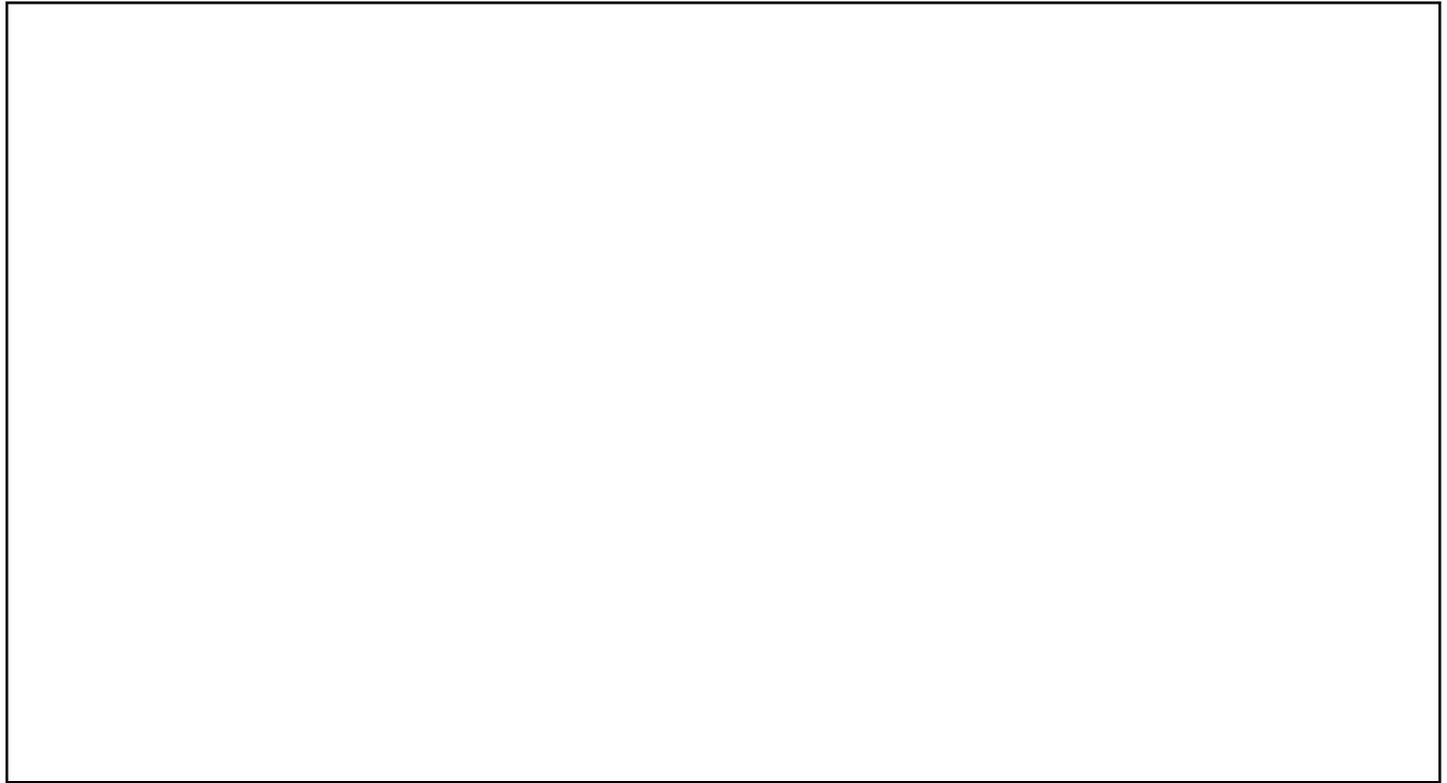
**PRESENTATION** // Lit Log is the appropriate length and format, has an engaging title, and is proofread to be free of errors in grammar and mechanics.

**PROCESS** // Thorough evidence of your original thought and composition process -- including hand-written notes -- is included in this google doc template. (Projects without this will not be scored.)

**PROCESS DOCUMENTATION** -- in this box, include evidence of your mind at work: brainstorming or partial drafts in your class notebook, rough drafts of artwork, typed stream-of-consciousness while you listen to potential playlist songs, etc.

Im mainly focused on #3 prompt. The Design and process Im mainly focusing on them only because I need to make people engaged and intrigued about the story. The process is important to me also because it gives the time and understanding when writing it, and that gives me an overall good grade

- When I read the scenes and chapters from 5 to 8, Freedom was a significant theme in these scenes. They talk about the freedom and how they are getting treated differently and unfairly. People who have higher power can control what they do with their lives in the real world. Certain people have to wear certain colors based on their rank; they are given and have to follow certain orders. For example, certain people can't have access to certain things that other people have access to.
- Q: At first it seemed totally different, but when I thought about it more, some things can relate to our present time and can't relate to. Because certain things still happen to this day but some stuff was ended a while ago because we believed it was pointless.
- A quote that I found is on (Pg 33) says, “No woman... The world prevents a birth.”
- Another quote that I found on (Pg 45) says “ All flesh is weak, All flesh is grass”
  - My main thing Im going to focus on is most likely freedom and how it compares to our present time, and how much things have changed but also stayed the same. I think that can get people's attention and really open up about the book.
- The Intro is getting straight to the point and tells the differences and similarities between 2 different times and places. Then start going into detail about how fair the freedom is, and if it's still fair or unfair in our present time.
  - The rest of the passage/story is going to be about how I think of it and what changed from the beginning to the part of the story we are at, and then compare both times to our present time.



*Lit Log Final Draft Here:*

At first, Handmaid Tales seemed totally different, but when I thought about it more, some things can relate to our present time and can't relate to. Freedom plays a big part in the book "Handtail's Tale," but mainly in chapters 5 - 8. They talk about each other's freedom and how fair it is to each other. The events that happened in the book in their time are also taking place in the present time of our country. The first thing I want to cover in our time in the country, we still kinda have different power levels between people who have different titles. The people with title names are over people in a way that is not fair to other people because they believe they are the most important people in the world. In the book, it's the same way because they have to wear certain colors and can't communicate with each other if they're wearing a certain color. To me, that's not fair because everyone should be treated with fairness. Everyone isn't perfect or in the best situations, but people would make fun of them or bring them down in some kind of way. Everyone should be treated the same way, no matter the title they have. But in the book Handmaid, they

even talk about the unfairness they have in their time. In chapter 5, page 33 says, “No Woman... The world prevents a birth,” meaning that they use the woman for births to keep the population going, and to always have someone to take a place for someone if something ever happens. Going deeper into the quote, the higher woman couldn't have kids, but the wives had to have the kids, which is more of forcing the lower-class women to have kids without any kind of say. They are making women pregnant who have less than others do into workers, and they pay them by making babies. Comparing this to the world now, it's a lot of things that are happening like this, and people can't get abortions or any kind of stoppage to having a baby they don't want. That's not fair to people who have situations where they were forced to get pregnant and can't get rid of the baby. Now they are forced to have the kid and be traumatized all their life. Every time the mother looks at the kid, she is just going to remember the trauma and pain she had to go through.

Going into more detail about freedom from the book “Handmaid Tales,” the way the system in the book is non-caring about the people in it. They pass the lower class around the city like it's nothing, and make them into servants in the household. They have rules they can't break, or something is going to happen to them. It's a prison in the household, and something is unfair to people who are living in the household cause of the restrictions they have. It's like jail in the book household, but in our prestigious society, it's almost the same way in prisons now, just a little bit stricter than the book. In the book, people have to be in their rooms at a certain time and can't have anyone in their room at all at any time because they can't have any communication with each other. Then another thing that is different from today's jail and this book household jail is that we are allowed to read, they weren't allowed to read. They had outside time but were watched when they went out. It's like the real world in the book, but just told a different way in a story that has a bigger plot to it. Just this alone shows how messed up the system is and how unfairly it is to people. Everyone should still be treated with some kind of respect, where people can still have a say in certain things and situations. Not to be just overly powerful and be in control of everything

they do.

Another quote that I found in chapter 8, page 45 says, "All flesh is weak, all Flesh is grass."

The real meaning of this quote is to really let you know that everyone is the same. Everyone can feel the same thing other people feel. It's never just a single person feelings that is going around the world. Everyone feels something in their mind and flesh. It really just gives you an example of what they mean by everyone is the same in a different meaning way.