

Language and Power in *The Handmaid's Tale* Reflection Activity

Write a one paragraph response to one of Offred's language musings. Using Offred's musings as a model (consider good example such as "reduced circumstances" [8], "sitting room" [9], "Fraternize...Sororize" [11] "undone" [25]), further explore the connotations and denotations of the words' use in Gilead and in your own world.

Based on the presentations and your own group's study, predict how you think the relationship between language and power will contribute to the meaning rest of the novel, and the novel as a whole.