

**Thesis Statement Formation**

Your thesis sentence should contain each of the following elements:

- **Specific details** that you're using to prove your argument (Examples from Text)
- **Argument** - what you think the details are doing in the text (Your Opinion)
- **So What** - why it matters that Atwood would choose to do this (Authorial Intent)

**Example thesis sentence 1:**

In *The Handmaid's Tale*, Offred's refusal to reveal her own name, her repetition of the phrase "Nolite te bastardes carborundorum," and the opening scene where the women all whisper their real names to each other all combine to underscore the restrictiveness of language in Gilead. By dwelling on the mediation of language in Gilead, Atwood reflects on the controlling politics of language in America.

**Example thesis sentence 2:**

In the night chapters of *The Handmaid's Tale*, Offred's nightmare about her daughter, recollection of blaming Janine for being raped and reaction to her own laughter at the Commander all reveal the ways in which Offred uses alone time in her room to reflect on the restriction of expression in Gilead. Atwood includes these moments to underscore the importance of submissiveness in Gilead and to question the existence of freedom of expression in America.