Committee: Literary- The Handmaid’s Tale

Topic: Great Social and Political Change

Delegate: Agent Binnie (Kornelia Drianovski, Oakville Trafalgar High School)

The roots of revolutions are complex and multifaceted. Throughout history, great social and political change has been achieved due to the symbiotic relationship between the educated elites and the masses. The American, French, Russian, and Cuban revolutions are all examples of upheavals led by powerful intellectuals and flown from top to bottom. Naturally, without the elites, there would have been no qualified and competent leaders to inspire and unify the masses. Without the masses, the elites would not have the brute force that is necessary to subvert the established government. In Gilead, there is undoubtedly a silent minority of elites who are dissatisfied with the current oppressive regime. Ultimately, Mayday’s objective should be to undermine Gilead’s most vital economic and social sector: reproduction. To ensure the most cohesive and effective revolution, the few rebellious Mayday Commanders must share their insider’s knowledge of government procedure and confidential information. Exposing the truth behind the oppression and stressing the importance of the cause is vital for breaking conformity among carefully selected Wives, Guardians, and Soldiers. These high members of society are crucial for the sabotage and resistance operations. As for Gilead’s lower class members, they must be ready to execute orders and confront the status quo. From the Handmaids taking birth control, to the Chauffeurs carrying out acts of violence against high-profile government officials, their participation is vital for the movement.  Finally, the millions of rejected and ostracized men and women living in the Colonies must be made aware of Mayday and provided with the weapons to fight against the tyrannical establishment. Together, elites and the masses must work if the Resistance is to succeed in re-establishing a democratic and free America.