**The Ceremony, Satire, and Atwood’s “Modest Proposal”**

**Satire Revisited:**

* + Satire is a style of rhetoric that exposes vices and foolishness in people and society.
  + Satire generally uses humor, irony, sarcasm, and other techniques to get an emotional reaction from the audience.
  + Satire often aims to create political or social change.

**Johnathan Swift *A Modest Proposal***

**“I have been assured by a very knowing American of my acquaintance in London that a young healthy child well nursed is at a year old a most delicious, nourishing, and wholesome food.” (10)**

**[…] although I rather recommend buying the children alive and dressing them hot from the knife, as we do roasting pigs. (16)**

Discuss what kind of reaction you think this would provoke in a reader from 1729? What kind of reaction do you think this would provoke in a reader from 2016? 2050?

Swift expresses a chilling lack of empathy. He provides the reader with a great deal of gory details. Do you think this is necessary for him to convey his message? Is this necessary for a satire?

***The Handmaid’s Tale* as a “modest proposal”**

Revisit Atwood’s epigraph. How important do you think each quote is now? Keep in mind that the biblical epigraph echoes the scene before the ceremony.

**Your Turn**… Draft a *modest* proposal of your own. What part of society will it reflect? How might you convince the reader to believe in your issue? What will their reaction be?