**Thesis**: In the dystopian novels, *1984* and *The Handmaid’s Tale,* Orwell and Atwood utilize satirical motifs and the recurring theme of manipulating information to illustrate how progressive deviation from the truth strengthens and perpetuates oppressive totalitarian rule.

1. Biblical allusions in The Handmaid’s Tale and the motif of doublethink in 1984 portrays the ruling authority reconfiguring fact into their own ideal truth to endorse their dictatorship methodologies, demonstrating how totalitarian systems establish a permanent foundation for control.
   1. At the Rachel and Leah Center, Aunt Lydia feeds the handmaid’s biblical stories modified to promote the Sons of Jacob’s societal structure. Offred recognizes the phrase “Give me children, or else I die” in the story of Rachel and Leah has taken on “more than one meaning” in Gilead (Atwood 52).
      1. The biblical story of Rachel and Leah provides the foundation and justification of Gilead’s use of handmaids. Rachel used her handmaid, Bilhah, to give birth for her as a solution for infertility. Her same exclamation, ‘Give me children, or else I die’, is given a new meaning in Gilead, where women unable to produce viable offspring are sent to the colonies to die.
      2. Atwood is satirizing valuing women’s ability to produce offspring to the extreme: life or death.
   2. This thematic pattern of corrupting information is prevalent throughout 1984. Using doublethink, Big Brother makes an announcement that the “chocolate ration would be reduced from thirty grammes to twenty”, but just a day later there were “demonstrations to thank Big Brother for raising the chocolate ration to twenty grammes a week” (Orwell 74).
      1. Winston is baffled everyone could believe this lie so quickly, but many of the Party’s subjects “swallowed it fanatically, passionately, with a furious desire to track down, denounce, and vaporize anyone who should suggest that last week the ration had been thirty grammes” (Orwell 74).
      2. Facts are completely rewritten, or stories are distorted to take on new meaning to justify or support the dictator. The motif of doublethink and biblical allusions demonstrate how the oppressive regime is able to control the populous through the manipulation of truth.
      3. The initial manipulation of information seen in Gilead’s twisted biblical stories is expanded upon in 1984, in which altered facts leads to an unrestrained interchangeability of truth. Gilead has no such ability to continually and rapidly revise truth and reality, the falsehoods they have established require no editing.
      4. The difference in fact distortion illuminates the immediate degradation of legitimacy following the initial act of corruption, desensitizing the population to accept fiction as fact. This newly created truth fuels blind loyalty and passionate support in a vulnerable society. As the propagated lies accumulate, truth is lost, and its importance is forgotten, allowing the systematic indoctrination to become the new unquestioned truth.