

Directions:

- Choose one of the following essay topics and write a persuasive essay of 600-800 words (approximately 5-6 paragraphs - intro paragraph, body paragraphs, concluding paragraph).
- You are expected to have a clear thesis statement (the last sentence of your introduction) that specifically states your argument and submit via Teams prior to writing the essay.
- You must use quotations and explanation in the body paragraphs to support your argument. Quotations must be integrated successfully and use the correct format for referencing (Act.Scene.Line). See "Quoting for Plays" under the writing tab on website)
- I suggest using an essay outline (There is a printable copy on my website or a digital outline link).
- The final copy must be typed, double-spaced, size 12 font (use Arial or Times).

Since we cannot conference in person, you must check in with me via Teams or Zoom to discuss your ideas, thesis, and draft copy before completing and submitting the good copy.

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**TOPICS:**

1. Analyze Desdemona's role. Is she merely a passive victim of Othello's brutality? Or, is she independent and bold?
2. Discuss Emilia's role in the play. How does her character change during the course of the play? Pay particular attention to moments when Emilia decides to be silent and when she decides to speak. What is the effect of her silence about the handkerchief? Do we forgive this silence when she insists on speaking in spite of Iago's threats in the final scene?
3. Discuss Othello's tragic flaws and how they ultimately lead to his downfall. Pay particular attention to Act Three, the turning point in the play.
4. Shakespeare makes great use of antithesis (contrast) in this play. For instance, Desdemona is the antithesis of two other characters: Iago and Emilia. Discuss how this term applies to the play by contrasting Desdemona with either Iago or Emilia.
5. Discuss Iago's power over others. Explore how he ensnares each victim.

**Submit Thesis by April 21<sup>st</sup>; discuss ideas & rough copy next week; Good copy due Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>.**