

The Tragedy of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark – William Shakespeare

Objective

Write an analytical essay on one of the following prompts. Provide evidence from the text to support your claims.

Prompts

Select *one*:

- **Hamlet's Mental State** – Examine Hamlet's mental state through the play. Is he truly insane, and, if so, at what point does he go mad? If he is not insane, to what end does he use his feigned madness?
- **Hamlet's Greatest Flaw** – Evaluate Hamlet as a tragic character. What is his greatest flaw, and how does that flaw contribute to the tragedy of this play—not just his own death but the deaths of the other characters as well?
- **The Grief Stricken Son** – Hamlet is not the only character in this play who loses a beloved father. Compare him to the other grief stricken sons, Fortinbras and Laertes. Which son would be deemed most honorable in the eyes of his father?
- **Hamlet and Women** – There are only two women in this play, but they seem to evoke the strongest emotions from Hamlet. Why is Hamlet so hostile toward women, and what does his relationship with them indicate about a woman's role in Shakespeare's society?
- **Looking at Hamlet as a Social Commentary** – Considering Shakespeare's audience and purpose, what was his message through this, his most famous, play? Discuss the development of *one* of the following thematic subjects:
 - Government Surveillance
 - Social Order
 - Religious Doctrine and Suicide
 - Justice/Revenge