

The Tragedy of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark – William Shakespeare

Name _____

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
 - Religious Doctrine and Suicide
 - Social Order
 - Justice/Revenge

Rubric

Introduction Paragraph (1)	/10
General info about the novel (author, setting, brief summary)	
Topic of essay is made clear	
Strong, arguable thesis statement (no 3-point thesis statements)	/5
Body Paragraphs (2-4)	
Topic and Concluding Sentences	/40
Evidence is accurate, strong, and relevant	
Include at least two pieces of contextual evidence	
Follow the XYZ properly	
Quotes are strong and relevant	
Quotes are cited with proper parenthetical documentation	
Conclusion Paragraph (1)	/10
Summarize the points of the essay	
Restate the thesis, using different words	
End with a strong conclusive statement	
Works Cited	/10
Last page of the paper (no heading, but it should have a pg. #), proper title	
Work(s) is cited properly (ordered properly; free of punctuation errors)	
MLA Format	/10
TNR, 12-pt font, 1-inch margins, Heading with last name/pg #, double space	
Quotes are punctuated correctly	
Grammar/Spelling	/15
Essay should be free of all grammar/spelling errors	
Use of Vocabulary	+
# of days late _____ - _____%	-
Total	/100