

Essay Procedure -

1. Read over your list and decide on the one for you. (5 min.)
2. Listen while we discuss each one briefly...take notes. (10 min.)
3. On a paper brainstorm your topic. (5 min.)
4. Gather as a group...depending on your choice. Share your ideas. (5 min.)
5. With your group discuss how you could set up the structure of your essay (5 min.)
6. Return to your seat and take some notes on essay writing.

Formal Essays - Hamlet

Marking Rubric

-Title Page -----5

-Outline -----5

-Introduction Paragraph -----10

-Body (3 strong arguments) -----20

-Conclusion -----10

-Total Marks ----50

-You can lose up to 10 marks (20%) for mechanics.

On Essay Writing

Outline- Proper form

- Place after title page
- Each section represents a paragraph

Introduction-emphatically state thesis.

Body- 3 strong arguments with proof.

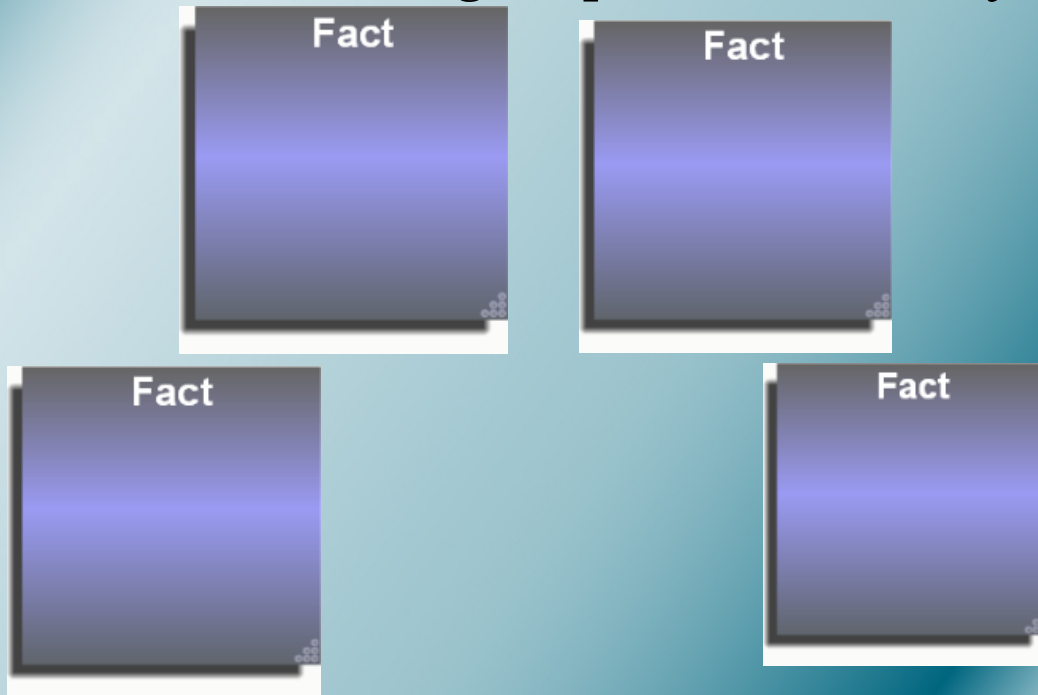
Conclusion- strongly restate thesis.

Outlines - Purpose?

Have you ever tried to bake cookies without a recipe?

Have you ever tried to build a birdhouse without a plan?

Outlines - An integral part of an essay



Sample Outline

I. Introduction - Laertes and Hamlet as revengers

- A. Hamlet took his time for revenge**
- B. Laertes rushed into revenge**

II. Similarities between the two

- A. Same reason for revenge**
- B. Both died because of revenge**
- C. Both connected to Ophelia**

III. Differences between the two

- A. Different revenge methods**
 - a. Hamlet thought things through**
 - b. Laertes acted quickly**

IV. Why Hamlet was better

- A. Hamlet got it done with no regrets**
- B. Laertes acted quickly with regrets**

V. (Conclusion) summarize points

Points -

- *Mechanics are important
- *Stay in present tense
- *Always credit sources ("Say it, Prove it")
- *Avoid "like when"
"really" "very"
"nice"

*In a formal essay avoid -

Contractions / Slang / Use of "I"

*Use a thesaurus

* Use proper margins (1 inch for usual, 3 inches down for page 1)

*Number your pages (top right corner...starting with page 2)

*If unsure check your notes or a Form and Format


Essay Writing Steps -

- 1. Choose the topic that most interests you.**
- 2. Brainstorm for that topic.**
- 3. Organize your brainstorming - your essay must follow a logical order (chronological, weakest to strongest argument).**
- 4. Using your notes to this point, plan a strong outline.**
- 5. Flesh out your outline with quotes (appropriate ones to introduce or conclude, actual quotations from characters in text).**

- 6. Write a strong thesis statement.**
- 7. Use this thesis statement to write your introduction paragraph.**
- 8. Write your essay...edit...use spell and grammar checks,...justify...print.**
- 9. Make your title page and bibliography.**
- 10. Pass your essay in...on time!!!**

Thesis Statements

A thesis statement announces your intent in writing the paper, so the reader will know what you are proving, illustrating, or comparing.

 <http://leo.stcloudstate.edu/acadwrite/thesistatement.html>

Introduction Paragraph -

In Shakespeare's play, Hamlet, madness is one of the dominant components. Both Hamlet, the prince of Denmark, and Ophelia, his girlfriend, wear "the mask of madness" by times. Hamlet seems to be feigning madness while Ophelia appears to be truly mad. Regardless, both of these characters definitely manage to express their true thoughts and feelings; under the guise of madness, reason reigns.

Introduction Paragraph -

A famous American writer, sculptor, and educator, Kate Millett, once stated, "Many women do not recognize themselves as discriminated against; no better proof could be found of the totality of their conditioning." In Shakespeare's play, Hamlet, the actions of Ophelia, Hamlet's love, are based on the extreme need of young women in her time to obey their fathers, and not follow their hearts. Gertrude, Hamlet's mother, may appear to be an emotionally weak woman, but is she? In this play, Hamlet, who feels betrayed by both women, believes both women are weak. The reality is that their actions are influenced by the position of women in this time period.

Handling Quotations

A. Short Quotations - quotations that are 4 lines of prose or 3 lines or less of poetry.

Ex. Students need to feel that they have a voice and can be heard when they say such things as, "hearts broken/ Love lost/
But not a word spoken," ("I Apologize" 1-3)

B. Long Quotations - set off from the text and indented approximately 10 spaces from the left margin; prose passages more than 4 lines and poetry more than 3 lines.

Ex: In his poem, "Do Not Go Gentle into that Good Night", Dylan Thomas tells us that we have to live "do or die" when he says:

Good men, the last wave by, crying
how bright
Their frail deeds might have
danced in a green bay,
Rage, rage against the dying of the
light.

Wild man, who caught and sang
the sun in flight
And learn, too late, they grieved it
On it's way,
Do not go gentle into that good
night.
(Thomas 7-12)

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Citing Sources

a. Shakespeare:

("Ophelia" 5.1. 181-184)

(Hamlet "Ophelia" 5.1. 181-184)

b. Book or Novel: (The Americans are Coming 100)

Conclusion -

As stated previously, both Hamlet and Laertes assess and approach the situations differently. Hamlet does most of the assessing and less of the approaching.

Laertes is the exact opposite; he does not step back and seriously look at his situation. He feels the desire to seek revenge and nothing is going to stop him.

Hamlet and Laertes are very different, but their need for revenge is the same. The true differentiating factor is how they approach revenge!

Conclusion -

Revenge is the force that drives both Hamlet and Laertes. Each has his own reasons and his own course of action, but each ultimately pays a great price to achieve his goal. One ends up dying an honorable death, and the other, not so honorable. In the end they die absolving each other of blame and in agreement that the king is to blame. "Revenge is a confession of pain." (Latin Proverb. Online. <http://www.3.thinkexist.com/quotations/revenge>)

*copy

Bibliography -

Novel -

Mary Shelley, Frankenstein
(New York: Dover Publications, 1994).

Poem in an anthology -

Anna Barbauld, "The Rights of Women 1795", Women Romantic Poets, ed. Jennifer Breen, 2nd ed., 1 vols.
(Rutland: Orion House, 1995) 78.

Sample Title Page

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Beyond the shadow of Doubt: Browning's
Response to the Crisis in Religious Faith

by
Gail Croswell

Mrs. J. O'Neill

English 122

30 March 2005

Final Checklist

1. Pages numbered correctly?
2. Proper margins?
3. Double spaced?
4. 12 font?
5. Proper paragraphing?
6. Pages in correct order?
7. All quotes done by format requirements?
8. Citations correct?
9. Bibliography included?
10. All editing work done?
11. Present Tense?