

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.
 - You must use quotations and explanation in the body paragraphs to support your argument.
 - It is necessary to use an essay outline prior to beginning your good copy. (There are extra copies on my website).
 - The final copy must be typed, double-spaced, size 12 font (use Arial, Times, or Garamond). You will hand 3 drafts: the outline, edited rough copy, and 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 the role of Emilia. 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 the importance of setting in the play. Pay close attention to the physical details that differentiate Venice from Cyprus. How does setting affect the action of the play?
4. 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.
5. Desdemona and Iago are considered to be the antithesis of each other. Discuss how this term applies to the play.
6. Conflict is the heart of plot. Discuss the main conflict in the play: good versus evil.
7. Discuss Iago's power over others. Explore how he ensnares each victim.
8. Discuss one of the dominant themes of the play.
9. Choose a motif to explore and discuss how it reveals one of the dominant themes. (You may choose to discuss more than one motif, but you must connect them to the same theme).