# Hamlet Argumentative Essay Assignment

Select **ONE** of the questions below and write a well-developed **5 paragraph argumentative essay** that clearly demonstrates your understanding of the topic. Your essay should be approximately **1500 words** typed and **double-spaced**. Use **12 point Times New Roman font**.

1. Think about Hamlet’s relationship with Ophelia. Does he love her? Does he stop loving her? Did he ever love her? What evidence can you find in the play to support your opinion?
2. Identify three revenge plots in Hamlet, and explain why each is important to the development of the play.
3. Conflict is essential to drama. Show that *Hamlet* presents both an outward and inward conflict.
4. Is justice served in *Hamlet*?
5. Hamlet’s madness is more apparent than real. Discuss.
6. Shakespeare plays with the characters, and even the audiences, perception of what is reality in *Hamlet*. How so?
7. What does Shakespeare suggest to us in *Hamlet* about the nature of revenge?
8. Does Shakespeare suggest that Hamlet is a pure character who sees through the corruption of the court in Denmark, or is he himself equally corrupt?
9. What uncertainty’s are we presented with in *Hamlet*? What was Shakespeare’s intent? What impact are these meant to have?

Reminders:

* Your essay requires a strong introduction, which includes a clear and concise thesis statement and three strong supporting arguments that support it.
* You must use evidence (quotations / passages) from the play to support your argument. Please see *Quoting Shakespeare* handout for proper formatting of your evidence. Use 3 pieces of evidence from the play for each supporting point. Do not use more than one passage in your essay.
* Make sure you use transitions from paragraph to paragraph.
* Do not write in first person.
* Use present tense.
* Do not use contractions (i.e. isn’t= is not, doesn’t= does not, won’t= will not…)
* Provide a strong conclusion reinforcing your argument and supporting points. Make sure no new information is introduced in the conclusion.
* Include a works cited page (i.e. your text), MLA format.
* Include a header with the following: Your name, teachers name, page number

In writing your essay, it is important that you complete the process work along the way. Please note the following due dates:

1. Outline DUE: Thurs. Nov. 12 (end of class) /10 marks
2. Rough Draft Outline DUE: Mon. Nov. 16 (end of class) /10 marks
3. Typed Rough Draft DUE: Tues. Nov. 17 (end of class) /10 marks
4. Peer Edit DUE: Wed. Nov. 18 (end of class) /10 marks
5. Final Copy DUE: Fri. Nov. 20 (end of class) /40 marks

\*\*Note: the process work (combined) is worth just as much as the final copy of the essay\*\*