

Summer Assignments
AP English Literature
Mr. Narozny

Welcome to the first assignments of your senior year! ☺

The following assignments are due the first Friday of school.

1. Complete the attached literary device list by defining each device as well as providing examples where appropriate. Use the internet to complete this list.

2. Read *Othello* and complete the attached assignment.

You may wish to re-read *Macbeth*, as the assignment requires you to analyze this second play as well. (Use the following website to read *Macbeth* online and to get decent summaries of the scenes.)

- <http://www.clicknotes.com/macbeth/>

- Click “scene index” for a listing of each scene; click the scene to read it.

- Annotations are “clickable” via the line numbers on the left as you read.

3. Choose one college essay topic from any of the colleges to which you are applying and complete the essay. The length should be stated on the application. However, if it isn't, my minimum length requirement is 1 to 2 pages. Consider this essay to be a **rough draft**. We will work together to improve it throughout the first few weeks of school, after which I will give you a final essay grade for the paper.

Othello – Summer Work
Mr. Narozny
AP English Literature

Essay: Comparison of *Macbeth* and *Othello*

Type a 5 to 7 paragraph response to the following prompt. The essay will be graded on your ability to formulate a cohesive argument consisting of a clear thesis statement, topic sentences, multiple supporting details per paragraph, and a strong conclusion. Avoid lengthy plot summary at all cost! Only use plot details to support specific claims within your argument.

1. In the plays *Macbeth* and *Othello*, we find that ‘all is not as it seems’. Choose two characters from each play and analyze how Shakespeare’s theme of deceptive appearances is used. How does deception, as a device, affect our understanding of the characters and the play? You may limit your analysis to one specific scene per character in order to show succinctly how deception is used in the play. You may wish to consider the following characters: Macbeth, Lady Macbeth, Malcolm, The Witches, Othello, and Iago. To conclude, consider what Shakespeare’s purpose may have been in having the crux of these two plays (as well as many of his other plays!) hinge on deception.

Tips on writing:

1. **Do NOT**: use contractions, say ‘in conclusion’ or anything like it, “list” your paragraph openers (first, second, etc...), say ‘I think’ or ‘in my opinion’, use ‘I’ at all, use plot summary as filler, use bombastic language foolishly, and above all **DO NOT TRY TO IMPRESS ME!** You might over-do it! Just be your natural self and all will be fine! ☺

2. **DO** do the following: organize, pre-write, proofread, have a thesis statement, commit to topic sentences that refer to your thesis, proofread, use specific textual references as support (quotes not needed this time; act and scene number references are fine), write as an expert (be assertive), write explicitly (do not *imply* your intended meaning, explicitly state it!), proofread, assume I know the plays (I do), proofread, **AND** please email me for help! I check my email often. ☺