

Honors College Writing/ Shakespeare Taming of the Shrew Essay

Last quarter we studied a classic piece of literature, *Taming of the Shrew*. As a culminating assessment of your understanding of the play, you will write an essay utilizing quotes from your play as evidence of your points. Your essay should be a minimum of 3 pages, typed and double-spaced, excluding the Works Cited page. Be sure to formulate a clear thesis statement that you will support with details and quotations from the text/ references to the film. Also, incorporate logical and smooth transitions, directive topic sentences, literary analysis, and high-level vocabulary.

You have two options for this essay:

1. A **Compare/ Contrast** essay between the play and the modern adaptation “10 Things I Hate About You”
Note: If choosing this option you will have to watch the film online either using a Disney+ subscription OR I will rent the movie through Youtube on Wednesday, April 1st and it will be available for 72 hours. I will send information to access this rental.

2. A **Literary Analysis**, which explores the text for both language, symbolic, and thematic meaning. The topic options are as follows:

Topic 1: **Gender Roles**- How do gender roles affect the attitudes of the characters, and how do these roles surface in the play? For example, most of the men seem to have a particular idea about how a wife should behave, but do their preconceptions extend to all women? How do the women react to these expectations? Are the women systematically oppressed, or do they subtly balance the men’s power?

Topic 2: **Humor**- The play is essentially a comedy, and yet more serious questions about social issues often overshadow its comic features. How does humor function in *The Taming of the Shrew*? For example, think about how humor is used in the wooing scenes by both Petruchio and Lucentio.

Essay Timeline

Wednesday, April 1- Friday April 3 rd	Watch “10 Things I Hate About You” (if choosing that essay option)
Monday, April 6 th	A topic proposal identifying your essay choice and what you will explore (I will provide feedback) emailed by midnight
Friday, April 24 th	Final essay emailed by midnight

MLA Format for Papers Checklist

Printing & Typing

1. Times New Roman Font **Only**
2. 12 point font
3. **A minimum of 1,00 typed words and a maximum of 1,300 words** (not including the header or works cited page/ roughly 3-4 pages)

Margins & Spacing

1. One inch margins throughout the entire paper
2. Indent the first word of a paragraph
3. The essay should be double spaced, BUT your header and works cited page should be single spaced.

Header

1. Your header is on the left side of the first page
2. Your word count is included.
3. Your last name and page number is in the top right corner of each page.

Writing Structure

1. Clear thesis statement
2. Topic sentence in each paragraph
 - Links directly to thesis
 - Contains sophisticated transitions
3. Concise and unique vocabulary
 - Avoid “things” “a lot” and other vague words
 - Use words accurately in context—words should enhance your meaning, not distract from it
4. Exact quotes/passages from the text and film (as applicable)
 - Correctly blended (part of your own sentence)
 - Guideline—one quote per text per idea/point
 - Example—if you have 3 main points in your essay, then you would need 6 quotes

Possible organizational format:

- I. Introductory Paragraph
- II. Topic #1
 1. Play Point 1
 2. Film Point 1
- III. Topic #2
 1. Play Point 1
 2. Film Point 1
- IV. Topic #1
 1. Play Point 1
 2. Film Point 1
- V. Topic #3
 1. Play Point 1

2. Film Point 1
- VI. Concluding Paragraph

Possible Topics for Comparison and Contrast:

- ◆ Role of Women
- ◆ Role of Men
- ◆ Film/ Play’s Ultimate Purpose
- ◆ Responsibility in Adaptations/ Modern Updates
- ◆ Character and Plot Comparisons
- ◆ Feminism vs. Masculinity

Essay Rubric

	Outstanding	Exceeds Expectations	Meets Expectations	Approaching Expectations	Unacceptable
Introduction/ Conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduction grabs attention and provides meaningful context to a persuasive argument ○ Conclusion effectively restates the argument, but fresh language and meaningful insight leaves reader wanting more <p style="text-align: center;">10 9</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduction sparks some interest and effectively introduces reasonable argument ○ Conclusion restates arguments, but uses new language and shows understanding of the big picture <p style="text-align: center;">8 7 6</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduction provides context for the argument but is obvious and/or basic ○ Conclusion restates arguments, but recycles previous statements verbatim <p style="text-align: center;">5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduction or conclusion does not flow with the argument of the paper ○ Introduction or conclusion contains blanket or vague statements; needs development to be effective <p style="text-align: center;">4 3 2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No introduction and/or conclusion <p style="text-align: center;">1 0</p>
Thesis	Argument is clearly articulated and persuasive, contains an original facts. <p style="text-align: center;">5</p>	Thesis presents reasonable facts, argument is clear and focused <p style="text-align: center;">4</p>	Thesis is a plausible argument; contains a legitimate fact, but somewhat broad/ basic <p style="text-align: center;">3</p>	Thesis demonstrates misunderstanding of the topic <p style="text-align: center;">2</p>	Thesis not evident; thesis is a fact or plot summary; thesis not in correct position <p style="text-align: center;">1 0</p>
Topic Sentences and Transitions	Topic sentences contribute to the highly persuasive nature of the argument <p style="text-align: center;">10 9</p>	Topic sentences articulate precise argument; logically linked to thesis <p style="text-align: center;">8 7 6</p>	Topic sentences are present and make an argument connected to the thesis; however, ideas are obvious and basic <p style="text-align: center;">5</p>	Topic sentences are not linked to the thesis Topic sentences show misunderstanding or prompt or text <p style="text-align: center;">4 3 2</p>	Topic sentences not evident ○ Topic sentences are facts or summaries <p style="text-align: center;">1 0</p>

Evidence	You have chosen, for the most part, the best evidence to support your point o Evidence is highly persuasive and effective in supporting your argument 10 9	Your evidence is believable and convincing and supports your argument 8 7 6	Evidence is present, but superficial 5	Evidence chosen does not support thesis/topic sentences o Textual evidence is irrelevant 4 3 2	Little or no evidence; 1 0
Focus & Content	Sharp, distinct focus; substantial, specific, and/or illustrative content; sophisticated, mature ideas are particularly well developed and supported by research. 10 9	Clear focus; specific, illustrative, and balanced content reasonably supported by research and quote citations. 8 7 6	Adequate focus, but unbalanced content; more analysis needed as well as sources for research and topic expansion. 5	Essay contains too much research information without analysis or commentary; essay is not effectively balanced of research and student analysis. 4 3 2	Absence of focus and relevant content; content doesn't "fit" thesis nor does it have research to support. 1 0
Analysis	Creative/original ideas and insights; extensive commentary, refreshing; goes beyond obvious and basic commentary 10 9	Analysis is believable and convincing, a few assertions may lack specific examples, but assertions are clearly connected to the argument 8 7 6	Analysis supports your argument, but ideas are obvious and basic 5	Ideas lack development; misunderstanding of prompt or text; illogical argument; 4 3 2	Analysis not present simply plot summary o Analysis does not address the prompt 1 0
Style, Citations, Vocabulary & Sentence Structure	Sophisticated vocabulary; sentence variety; quotations are smoothly blended with citations readily used. 10 9	Effectively blends direct quotation with explanatory words and phrases to introduce the quotation and facilitate narrative flow; still attempting advanced vocabulary 8 7 6	Blends quoted material smoothly; but sentence structure lack variety-basic and obvious; attempts to incorporate more advanced vocabulary 5	Problems with sentence clarity, redundancy; some quotes stand alone; some vague sentences; little use of class vocabulary or sentence variety or citations. 4 3 2	Serious problems with coherence and sentence clarity; most sentences need revision; most quotes stand alone and lack introduction/connection to the paper 1 0
Mechanics and Usage X2	Perfect! (or 1 or 2 minor errors) 10 9	Effective punctuation and MLA; close to perfect 8 7 6	Minor problems with coherence, grammar, spelling, punctuation, but does not interfere with the understanding of paper 5	Several distracting problems with spelling, grammar, punctuation, coherence; citations incorrect 4 3 2	Major spelling, grammar, punctuation errors; distracts from understanding; citations non existent 1 0
MLA: In-Text Citations	All sources are accurately documented in the proper MLA format (all quotes and paraphrased facts). Balance of sources with no over-reliance of one source; sources cited more than once 10 9	Almost all sources are documented, but a few are not in the desired format. Sources are decently balanced. 8 7 6	most sources are documented, but many are not in the desired format and there is a large reliance on certain sources over others. 5	Several sources lack proper documentation and are used more than others. 4 3 2	Sources are not accurately documented, and MLA format is not followed properly 1 0

Total: _____ / 95