*Othello* Essay Prompts

Name:

Date:

Due: **3/27/2020 by 11:58 PM to Turnitin.com**

Directions PLEASE READ CAREFULLY: Choose one of the following essay prompts in which to respond. Your essay should include an analysis of the text and how it relates to the chosen prompt. Remember that every prompt will need ample textual evidence to support your response. This should be written in a formal tone (avoid “you”, “we”, “I”, and slang). Your essay needs to be written in Times New Roman (or something similar), 12 pt. font, double spaced. It needs to be at least 2 pages including an introduction, body paragraphs, and a conclusion. You may use your text and notes to aid in your response.

Remember the following rules:

1. Because this essay is typed, the title of the play should be in italics
2. When citing a quote, the format is: Act Number. Scene Number. Line Number. Example (II. iv. 123).
3. Your introduction paragraph should introduce the text and give a little background information.
4. Avoid summarizing the play in your body paragraphs. I have already read the play, so you don’t need to tell me what happens. What I am interested in is how/why what happened is important and how it relates to the theme of the prompt.
5. Your conclusion should wrap up what you’re saying. What are you last overall thoughts on the subject?
6. Remember, my job is to help you. Reach out to me either by email or phone, and I will answer your questions.

Prompts (Remember, choose **ONE**):

Each prompt has multiple questions associated with it. This does not mean that you need a body paragraph for each sub question; a couple of them could be answered in the same body paragraph.

1. Analyze the motif of magic used in *Othello*. Why might the characters believe in this? How is it used as a scapegoat? Which characters seem to want to believe in magic and in what situations?
2. Pick a theme we have discussed in Othello and analyze its importance in the play. Make sure to give specific examples as to how it influenced characters and certain actions. \*Remember, a theme is not just a word; it is the overall message. For example, a theme for *Romeo and Juliet* would be fate and free will.
3. How/ to what extent is Othello’s race a factor in the play? How do people perceive him because he is a Moor? Give specific examples and analyze how Othello being a Moor directly influences how other characters treat him.
4. Analyze the irony behind Othello and Cassio calling Iago “Honest Iago”. What type of irony is used here; dramatic, verbal, or situational? Why is it this type of irony? What does Iago do to make this phrase ironic? Why is it important that the main characters place so much trust in Iago? What influence does it have that Othello and others trust Iago?
5. Analyze the importance of gender in *Othello*. What do the male and female personalities say about that given time period? How does the gender of a character influence the actions of that character? Give specific examples. \*This is a broad question, so maybe in your response pick a male character and female character and analyze how these characters act and respond to certain situations because of their gender.