Monologue/Soliloquy Memorization Assignment



**WHAT ARE WE DOING?:** You will select a monologue or soliloquy from *Macbeth* to memorize. The selected verse must be a minimum of ***20 lines***.

 A monologue is a long speech delivered from one actor when he or she is with others on stage.

 A soliloquy is an act of speaking one’s thoughts aloud in a formal speech alone on stage.

After you select your speech, you will begin to memorize and thoroughly explore your piece in order to understand **how** your selection ties into the scene, the act, and most importantly- the theme of the play.

**ON THE DAY OF THE EXAM**:

1. You will write out all 30 lines on a sheet of paper that will be provided to you. You may not bring any materials to use for this assessment.
2. You will submit a 1,000 word essay, which should be typed and printed [**late and/or** **online submissions will not be accepted**] explaining why these lines are important to the overall meaning of the text AND answering one of the following questions using your 30 lines to explain:
   1. *How can we explain continued interest in a particular work in different contexts and at different times?*
   2. *What do you think of the assertion that the meaning of a text is fixed and does not change over time?*
   3. *To what extent do male and female literary characters accurately reflect the role of men and women in society?*
   4. *How can a literary text’s style and structure reflect the context in which it was written?*
   5. *How can politics, society or culture shape the way literary texts are both written and read?*
   6. *How do literary texts capture the spirit of the times and the values of the culture?*

*\*\*\*HINT: You MUST using your 20 lines specifically to explain yourself in your essay. Use your lines to justify your thoughts. You should follow the CEI structure for each paragraph.*

**HOW WILL I BE GRADED**: This will count as a summative grade [**50 pts.=memorization; 50 pts.=essay**]. Two points will be deducted for each mistake.

**WHY ARE WE DOING THIS**?: To gain a better understanding of ***literature in context***. We will learn to focus on the connection between style, form, author, purpose and audience.

**Memorization Tips:**

 Choose a monologue/soliloquy you understand

 Watch the movie for ideas of how to interpret the piece

 Use Sparknotes.com or another website that can help you understand the context of your piece

 Find rhythm in what your memorizing, like music

 Chunk your piece into groups of lines—memorize each chunk and then lace them together

 Practice, practice, practice!