Monologue/Soliloquy Memorization Assignment



**WHAT ARE WE DOING?:** You will select a monologue or soliloquy from *The* *Taming of the Shrew* to memorize. The selected verse must be a minimum of ***thirty 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 30 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**?: Paper 2 is a test of understanding ***literature in context***. Although the questions will change from exam to exam, they will always focus on the connection between style, form, author, purpose and audience. By completing this activity, you are exploring these aspects of the text in preparation for success on Paper 2.

**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!