

Othello Extra Credit

Write a 1-2 page essay for each of the following. Be sure to cite sources in MLA citation format for any research that you use.

For those attending the performance:

1. Select one character and analyze the actor's interpretation of the character in the performance. This would include motivation, personality traits, themes developed, etc. Do you agree with the actor's interpretation of the role? Why or why not? Cite specific examples to support your opinion. Vague generalities will earn few points.
2. Analyze the staging of this production. What time period is the play set in? What impressions does the staging evoke? What symbols are emphasized with staging? Did you agree or disagree with the staging? Why or why not? Discuss your answer with specific examples.
3. Directors will often pick key themes and/or symbols to emphasize through staging, characterization, and line delivery. What themes and symbols are emphasized in this production? Identify these, discuss each, give specific examples to support your statements.
4. How did this production's interpretation of *Othello* agree or disagree with the way you envisioned in your mind the play, its characters, and its emphasis? Explain with detailed, specific examples.

For those not attending the performance:

1. Compare/Contrast: Compare and contrast the speaker's attitudes about his wife in Robert Browning's poem, "My Last Duchess" with Othello's feelings about Desdemona. Google the poem. Read it, and compare/contrast its content to the themes, ideas, and concepts in *Othello*.
2. This Shakespearean play has served as inspiration to many modern, pop culture adaptations and references. Research how *Othello* exists in pop culture today. Consider movie adaptations, novels, TV show satires (e.g. *The Simpsons*), songs, etc. To earn any credit for this project, you MUST provide proof of the existence of the examples that you cite.
3. Many theater critics compare the tragedies of modern relationships to the tragedy of Othello. Considering modern pop culture, media celebrities, or other famous people or situations, identify a person you can compare and contrast with Othello, Desdemona, or Iago.

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