

Project: Essay: Literary Essay on Hamlet's Character

Write an essay analyzing Hamlet's character during the course of the play. **Specifically address the question: is he a man of action OR a man of thought... and whether, or why, that changes during the play.**

Questions to help you think about Hamlet's Character:

- What is Hamlet's state of mind at the beginning of the play?
- Why?
- What is Hamlet's reaction to the information he receives from the Ghost?
- Why does Hamlet stage the play within the play, and what does he learn from it?
- Why does Hamlet not kill Claudius when he comes upon him in act 3?
- What is the significance of Hamlet's actions when he hears a voice behind the arras?
- Why does Hamlet criticize himself in two of the soliloquies?
- How does Hamlet act when he reads the letter Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are carrying?
- What is Hamlet's state of mind at the beginning of Act V? Why?

List examples of how Hamlet is a man of Action?

List examples of how Hamlet is a man of Thought?

Sample Outline:

Introduction: Give the title, author and a brief summary of the play.

Thesis: During the play, Hamlet is a man of thought and then becomes a man of action.

Body Paragraphs -

Paragraph 1: Topic Sentence: Hamlet begins the play as a man of thought.

- Give specific examples from the play (at least three) that show how Hamlet only thought about taking revenge/acting, but wasn't able to act on those desires.

Paragraph 2: Topic Sentence: Hamlet eventually turns his thought into actions.

-Give specific examples from the play (at least three) that show how Hamlet finally starts taking revenge/action.

Conclusion:

Explain what you learned from Hamlet that you can apply to your life.