***Othello* Performance Tasks (Choose 1)**

**PROMPT #1:**

We are constantly being persuaded by our friends, family members, teachers, advertisements, and many other sources. The art of persuasion is an important tool to have; if you are really good at it, you can convince most people of just about anything.

Your assignment is to rewrite Act V Scene 2, having Emilia enter Desdemona's chamber *before* Othello stifles her, and have Emilia persuade Othello *not* to kill Desdemona.

Thematic content requirements:

1. Either Emilia or Othello must say something that reveals awareness of Iago’s envy and reason for it.
2. Othello must say something that shows he realizes how Iago made him mad with jealousy.

PREWRITING:

Make a list of arguments Emilia could use. Make a list of Othello's possible responses to each argument. What will Desdemona's reaction be? After you make lists with possible scenarios, choose the arguments and responses you think will be the best and most likely, considering the characters involved.

DRAFTING:

Imitate Shakespeare's writing style to write your scene, if you can. Make a rough draft of the dialogue and then go back to fine-tune it and add any necessary stage directions.

**PROMPT #2:**

You know Desdemona was innocent--she was "framed" by Iago. Who is most responsible for Desdemona's death? Iago for framing her? Othello for committing the murder? Desdemona for not putting up more of a fight? Cassio? Which character in the play is most responsible for her death? Write a composition in which you give your opinion as an answer to that question.

Thematic content requirements:

1. Include textual evidence of Iago’s envy. 2) Include textual evidence of Othello’s jealousy.

PREWRITING:

Who is most responsible Desdemona's murder? Think about it. When you arrive at an answer, write down that person's name. Under the person's name, jot down several good reasons why you chose that person as the most responsible party. Next to each reason, give several examples from the text supporting your statement.

DRAFTING:

Write an introductory paragraph in which you introduce the idea that \_ \_\_ is responsible for Desdemona's death. In the body of your composition, write a paragraph for each of the reasons you listed. Use a topic sentence for each paragraph and fill out each paragraph with the examples that support your statements. Write a paragraph in which you give your conclusions and bring your composition to a close. Include some Shakespearean poetic devices, if you can.

**The following applies to either Performance Task:**

REVISING:

When you finish the rough draft of your paper, ask a student who sits near you to read it aloud to you. After reading your rough draft, he/she should tell you what he/she liked best about your work, which parts were difficult to understand, and ways in which your work could be improved.

Reread your paper considering your critic's comments, and make the corrections you think are necessary.

PROOFING:

Do a final proofreading of your paper double-checking your grammar, spelling, organization, and the clarity of your ideas.