

ESSAY TITLE: DISCUSS SHAKESPEARE'S PRESENTATION OF IAGO IN THE FIRST TWO ACTS OF *OTHELLO* (800 WORDS)

Introduction: Explain who Iago is and his role within the drama. Give an overview of your argument. Is he simply an embodiment of evil or does he think that he has justifiable reasons for his plan and behaviour? It is worth noting that Iago has significantly more lines than the play's eponymous hero Othello, suggesting Shakespeare's fascination with the character.

Main body of the essay: paragraphs two, three and four: Choose three differing points in these opening two acts that demonstrate Iago's behaviour. You could consider Iago's opening blasphemous words of the play, his use of asides to the audience and the soliloquy form, his manipulation of Roderigo, his violent racist language to Brabantio, his misogyny when addressing Desdemona and Emilia on their arrival in Cyprus, amongst many other options.

Conclusion: Finally, suggest your reaction to Shakespeare's presentation of Iago, linking to your introduction.

Remember that you should reference tragic drama, audience, historical context and language if you can.

Given that this is your first Othello essay, I will be employing an informal mark scheme out of 20. Please see it as a first opportunity to write on the play, rather than a task that will cause you anxiety and let me know if you are having any difficulties.