

Secondary Support Evidence Sheets and Notecatcher

REASON # 1

Essay Question: *What is a significant theme in Hamlet?*

Claim/Thesis: *The most significant theme in Hamlet is the theme of "seems vs. is"*

Claim/Thesis + REASON:

I believe the most significant theme of the play is seems vs. is because the theme is so evident in the scene when Laertes is leaving for France.

(phrase reason as "because" statement": Creon should be condemned because he defies the laws of the gods.)

Textual Evidence Supporting Reason	Explanation of How the Quote is Showing or Proving the Reason to be True
<p>"For Hamlet, and the trifling of his favor,/ Hold it a fashion, and a toy in blood,/ ... Forward, not permanent, sweet, not lasting,/ ... No more" (I,iii, 5-9).</p>	<p><i>This quote is showing how Laertes believes Hamlets love is not real. It is just a show like fashion. He calls Hamlet's love a "trifling," a "fashion," a "toy," rather than a true love that would be "permanent" and "lasting."</i></p>
<p>Perhaps he loves you now, ... but you must fear, His greatness weighted, his will is not his own, For he himself is subject to his birth: He may not as unvalued persons do, Carve for himself, for on his choice depends The sanctity and health of the whole state, And therefore must his choice be circumscribed Unto the voice and yielding of that body Whereof he is head. (I, iii, 13-23)</p>	<p><i>This quote says that he may love you but it can't be true or real love because he will be King some day and will have his wife chosen for him. The only legitimate and real relationship he can have is with this future wife and it won't be you Ophelia. Therefore, his love (as real as it may seem) is not real love (as in marriage love)</i></p>
<p>Ophelia: My Lord he hath importuned me with love/ In honorable fashion. Polonius: Ay, fashion you may call it, go to, go to. Ophelia: And hath given countenance to his speech, my lord,/ With almost all the holy vows of heaven. Polonius: Ay, springes to catch woodcocks. ... these blazes daughter,/ ... you must not take for fire. (I, iii, 110-120)</p>	<p><i>This quote shows the suspicions of her father that Hamlet is just out to deflower Ophelia and he does not have good intentions.</i> <i>Again, we see the contrast between outward appearance (the way Hamlet woos her with love honorably and swears by heaven he loves her) and the reality of how Polonius considers his wooing as being just out to take advantage of her</i></p>

See this evidence written up into a well-supported body paragraph:

<http://www.lirvin.net/WGuides/SSupport.htm>

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