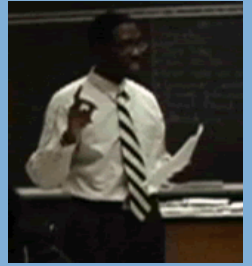


# Exploring Othello in a 10th Grade Classroom

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This site documents the teaching of Travis Bristol in a unit on *Othello* that takes place in December and January of the 2006-07 school year. This unit reflects the variety of goals he tries to keep in mind at any one time, including work on grammar, essay writing, the analysis of texts, and what Travis calls "life skills" like getting students comfortable speaking in front of groups. The class meets Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays for 90 minutes, including grammar lessons on Mondays and journal writing every Wednesday. The unit begins with an introduction to Shakespeare, a focus on the analysis and discussion of a scene almost every day, includes an emphasis on getting students to translate passages into their own vernacular and to make connections to related issues in their own lives like inter-racial dating, and culminates with a final essay and group performances. ([read full overview](#))

A [separate website](#) documents a discussion of Shelley's Ode to the West Wind from a poetry unit later in the year.

## Handouts, Assignments, and Student Work

### Classroom Videos

[December 5](#)

[January 18](#)

### After-Class Interviews

[December 5](#)

[December 7](#)

[January 18](#)

### Resources

### End of Year Interview

## Timeline for Unit on Othello



12/5/05  
 Grammar Lesson  
 and Literature Circles



1/18/06  
 Group Performances

Final  
 Essay

12/5/05

Midterm

1/18/06

Key Topics:

[Who is Shakespeare?](#)

[Biblical Allusion](#)

[Soliloquies](#)

[Iago's Bestial Language](#)

[Iambic Pentameter](#)

[Why did Desdemona and Othello have to die?](#)

(Transit Strike: 12/20 - 12/22)

*About this website:* This website has been created for the purpose of exploring the practice of teaching. It has grown out of work that Thomas Hatch and colleagues started with the Knowledge Media Lab at the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, and is being continued at NCREST: The National Center for Restructuring Education, Schools and Teaching, based at Teachers College, Columbia University. This website was designed and produced by Thomas Hatch and Pamela Gutman.