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*10<sup>th</sup> Grade, Sophomore Year*

*Mr. Bristol*

*Manhattan Hunter Science High  
School*

*English Portfolio*

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## Introduction

*This portfolio includes a variety of assignments, essays, and reflections upon this concluding year. Each assignment was handpicked to specifically emphasize the progression in my academics in English. Each includes a prologue explaining the assignment, background, also personal point of view. The portfolio concludes with an honest assessment of overall work this year. Hope it serves you well...*

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June 12, 2006  
English 4  
Mr. Bristol

***New York Times Socrates Introduction***

In this assignment, previously, students received an article based on two men and their goals. Their goals were attempting to receive all knowledge and information in the world, and place it all together, in something called “the library.” The article includes their journey and also philosophies from Socrates. His belief of “Defending one’s belief even in the face of the enemy or opposed, and whether you would risk your life for it.”

Students were instructed to react to this belief and why.

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English 3

September 21, 2005

*New York Times Article Reaction*

This article relates to the philosophy of Socrates similar. Socrates philosophies stated that “(Everyone) the necessity of doing what one thinks is right even in the face of universal opposition and the need to pursue knowledge even when opposed.” This is exactly what Bouvard and Pouchet envisioned. They dreamt of acquiring as much knowledge of the world, medicine, history, and sort of category, and placing it in “library.” This library was envisioned to contain all universal knowledge through books. These two “best friends” spent their time reading as many literature of any sort. Once completed, they would take the most important facts and place it in a book. This mission was never completed due to the death of Flaubert. However this dream was not diminished as two “brave” explorers were on a mission also of completing the same goal.

These two explorers read a large amount of books to reach a thorough conclusion. “The accumulation of knowledge isn’t knowledge.” I believe that these significant attempts, of trying to achieve something “redundant”, are righteous. These people believe in something and would often question and ask in hopes of receiving an answer; an answer that often provided knowledge. Though some of these people may die with failure of completing their goals, there would always be someone else in the world trying to accomplish the same. It would be much better, if your death resulted in morals motivating others. I believe that when you believe something you stand by it. The whole world may believe it is wrong or oppose it but if you feel its right than its right. I believe there would

also be nothing wrong dying because of your beliefs. I believe that in what you believe is what you live by. For example, religion; that religion is what makes up your life. Your daily life and actions are determined by that religion. If that religion is opposed or forced to be taken away, then you have nothing to live by. Without something to live by, you are dead.

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English 4  
June 12, 2006  
Mr. Bristol

**Othello Essay Introduction**

In this assignment, students were assigned to read the novel Othello by William Shakespeare both in class and at home. In class we would discuss themes such as friendship, relationships, text-to-text connections and more. In this assignment, our task was to write a descriptive essay describing a theme in the novel and how it influences it. I chose to use friendships and relationships as my theme, to include examples and persuade readers that without this theme, Tragedy would have never existed...

English 3  
Mr. Bristol  
January 8, 2006

If you put the new @ the beginning, how would you re-write this?

Othello Essay

Relationships are one of the many things everyone experiences in their life.

Whether it is a relationship of love or hate, it causes us to do actions. Some we may regret or wish to happen again. One type of relationship is friendship. The beautiful thing about a friendship is that it allows you to have someone you can always talk and rely on. These characteristics are defined as "trust". Trust is what can never be certain and in this case, be the same.

make this one sent.

The Tragedy of Othello written by William Shakespeare is a novel full of

love, hatred, and jealousy. Though all these expressions are kept secret, it is the magic of friendship, which allows it to be expressed.

The major character in the novel is Othello.

put these 3 sent. together

Othello is an African American and general of the Venetian army. Aside from his "day job", Othello is married to a woman named Desdemona. Desdemona is considered a very beautiful woman. "For know, Iago, but that I love the gentle Desdemona, I would not my unhoused free condition..." (Act I, Scene II, Lines 27-28) Desdemona's characteristics are admired so dearly by Othello that even his servant silently falls in love with her. We are introduced to this servant named Iago.

this is not true, he is African

who is talking?

Iago is a man who does not achieve much and wishes he does. Things he desires are Desdemona's love and Othello's duties as general of Venice. "Were I the Moor I would not be Iago. In following him, I follow but myself. Heaven is my judge, not I for love and duty..." (Act I, Scene I, Lines 63-65) It is his desires that would continually urge him to receive it until the point where he decides to plan a scheme.

what is your focus question?

Thesis



“I’ll pour this pestilence into his ear: That she reveals him for her body’s lust... So will I turn her virtue into pitch, and out of her own goodness make the net, that shall enmesh them all.” (Act 2 Scene 3 Lines 376-384) As Iago gathers his ideas and generalizes his basic plan, he soon learns that there are tools necessary to achieve his mission. He cannot achieve any of his goals without gaining the ever repeated theme, someone else’s trust.

As we all know, when in need of help, we always go to a friend or relative. And that is exactly what Iago does. He soon begins to establish relationships with Othello, Roderigo, who is a man in love with Desdemona also, and Venetian Lieutenant Michael Cassio.

Time begins to expire and friendships begin to increase. These friendships increase so highly that <sup>at</sup> its peak, anyone of these men would believe anything Iago <sup>at a word</sup> opines about or says. For example, after a major event in the <sup>play</sup> ~~novel~~, in which Michael Cassio was dismissed from his duties for a stabbing, he seeks to Iago for advice on what he should do. When Othello is in need of advice relating to political or personal matters, he seeks Iago’s advice. When Roderigo desires Desdemona so dearly and needs advice on how to earn it, he seeks Iago. These events rightfully earned Iago’s nickname, “O Honest Iago...” However, little do they all know that “Honest Iago”, is using their <sup>(Act, scene, line?)</sup> ~~trust~~ <sup>his own gain</sup> for an advantage, ~~to get what he desire.~~

Desdemona herself had a relationship. Desdemona would often seek advice and comfort during these hard times, from her dear friend and waitress, Emilia. Emilia always accompanied Desdemona. Thus the two’s trust increased and so did the level of their friendship. Desdemona would always speak to Emilia of her secrets and experiences

→ what is the purpose of this paragraph?

honestly. If this relationship would never to occur, the novel would not be named the tragedy of Othello because the truth would have never been revealed. Without the truth being notified, the morals are not acknowledged and the true definition of a tragedy is major events concluding to a disaster with misfortune and more importantly, regret.

where  
is your  
quote

Friendship was one of the more frequent appearing themes in the novel. Without Friendship, Roderigo would've never paid Iago money to gain Desdemona's love.

Without Friendship, Michael Cassio would've never become drunk and do something he would later regret. Without Friendship, Othello would've never been "silently poisoned" with lies, enough to kill his wife. Without all these events, this play would've never been considered a "tragedy." More importantly, without Friendship, Emilia would've never known the truth, causing everyone to learn it, and declare these events indeed a tragedy.

text to (text/mark/ self?)

O = 3.5  
I = 3.5  
C = 3.5

English 3  
Mr. Bristol  
January 8, 2006

### Othello Essay

Friendship is a thing that brings both love and hate. It brings both fun and depression. It allows you to have someone you can always talk with and trust. Trust being the major theme in a major tragedy. The Tragedy of Othello written by William Shakespeare is a novel full of love, hatred, and jealousy. Though all these expressions are kept secret to oneself, it is the magic of friendship, which allows it to be expressed.

The major character in the novel is Othello. Othello is an African American and general of the Venetian army. Othello is <sup>also</sup> married to a woman named Desdemona.

Desdemona is considered a very beautiful woman. So beautiful that even Othello's servant silently falls in love with her. <sup>is no other than the one</sup> <sup>paragraph</sup> We are introduced to this servant named Iago. Iago

is a man who does not achieve much, <sup>as General & high ranking</sup> and wishes he does. Things he desires are <sup>or possessions</sup> Desdemona's love and Othello's duties. It is his desires that will <sup>motivate & drive</sup> cause him to plan a

<sup>receives</sup> <sup>will</sup> scheme, <sup>However he cannot do it alone, where trust plays a role</sup> and the only way he can express it is through trust. <sup>Iago</sup>

~~Iago learns that he cannot accomplish this scheme on his own. He needs the help~~ <sup>To common knowledge</sup> <sup>seek</sup>

<sup>and</sup> of many other people. <sup>As we all know, when in need of help, we always go to a friend or family for advice or favors</sup> ~~relative.~~ And that is exactly what Iago does. He soon begins to establish relationships

with Othello, Roderigo, ~~who~~ <sup>is</sup> a man in love with Desdemona also, and Michael Cassio, a lieutenant, ~~in~~ which Iago would use to convince Othello, that Desdemona is currently having an affair with.

<sup>The scheme starts out when</sup> <sup>is</sup> ~~After a major event in the novel, in which Michael Cassio was dismissed from his duties~~ <sup>after a major</sup> <sup>and consoling</sup> <sup>aside from the situation,</sup> ~~stabbing, he seeks to Iago for advice on what he should do. When Othello is~~

too whether also  
in need of advice relating to political or personal matters, he seeks Iago's advice. When  
searches for Iago

Roderigo desires Desdemona so dearly and needs advice on how to earn it, he seeks Iago.  
examples resulted the frequent used

These events eventually earned Iago's nickname, "O Honest Iago..." However, little do  
of course,

they all know, that "Honest Iago", is using their trust for an advantage, to get what he  
desires.

continues  
Iago begins his plan by convincing Othello that Michael Cassio is committing  
more propaganda and lies  
"adultery" with Desdemona. He explains to Othello, some events that they lead to the  
Othello's suspicion  
conclusion that this suspicion may be true.

Desdemona herself had a relationship. Desdemona would often seek advice and  
difficult with her husbands  
comfort during these hard times, from her dear friend and waitress, Emilia. Emilia always  
accompanied Desdemona. Thus the two's trust increased and so did their friendship.

Desdemona would always speak to Emilia of her secrets and honest experiences. If this  
allowing the ultimate drive for Othello to kill his wife,  
relationship would never to occur, the novel would not be named the tragedy of Othello  
because the truth would have never been revealed. in the end.

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English 3  
Mr. Bristol  
June 11, 2006

### *Othello Essay*

Friendship is a thing that brings both love and hate. It brings both fun and depression. It allows you to have someone you can always talk with and trust. Trust being the major theme in a major tragedy. **The Tragedy of Othello written by William Shakespeare** is a novel full of love, hatred, and jealousy. Though all these expressions are kept secret to oneself, it is the magic of friendship, which allows it to be expressed.

The major character in the novel is Othello. Othello is an African American and general of the Venetian army. Othello is also married to a woman named Desdemona. Desdemona is considered a very beautiful woman. So beautiful that even Othello's servant "silently" falls in love with her. No other than the one named Iago.

Iago is a man who does not achieve much. He often envies others for their accomplishments or possessions. Things he desire are receiving Desdemona's love and Othello's high ranking duties as General. It is his desires that would drive him to plan a evil scheme. However he cannot do it alone, and in this situation, trust is a soon to play role.

Iago needs the help of many other people. To common knowledge, when in need of help, we seek friends or family for advice or favors. That is exactly what Iago intends to do. He soon begins to establish relationships with Othello, Roderigo, a man in love with Desdemona too. Also Michael Cassio, a lieutenant which Iago would use to convince Othello that Desdemona is currently having an affair with.

The scheme begins when Michael Cassio is dismissed from his duties after stabbing Rodrigo. He seeks Iago for advice and counseling on what he should do. Aside from the situation, when Othello is in need of advice too, whether political or personal, he also seeks Iago. Roderigo desires Desdemona dearly and does the same. These examples result in the frequently used nickname, "O Honest Iago..." However, little do all know that "Honest Iago", is using their trust for an advantage. To get what he desires.

Iago continues his plan by convincing Othello that Michael Cassio is committing "adultery" with Desdemona. He explains to Othello more propaganda and lies that would lead to Othello's suspicion that Desdemona is cheating on him.

Desdemona herself had a relationship. Desdemona would often seek advice and comfort during difficult times with her husband, from her dear friend and waitress, Emilia. Emilia always accompanied Desdemona. Desdemona would always speak to Emilia of her secrets and honest experiences. If this relationship would never occur, following the ultimate event where Othello kills his wife, the novel would not be named "The tragedy of Othello", because the truth would have never been revealed in the end.

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English 4  
June 12, 2006  
Mr. Bristol

***I Too Sing America Introduction***

In this assignment, we were to personally create a unique version of the English poem by Langston Hughes, "I Sing America." Students were to become creative and create a version defending what could be a culture, religion, or heritage. As we shared our poems, we also shared an understanding and communication of each other's backgrounds.

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English 3  
October 28, 2005

*I Too Sing America*

*God Bless America, Is what we sing,*

*Its bravery and hard work is what makes my pride bells ring.*

*God Bless America, full with opportunities of every kind,*

*Don't forget the different cultures, though dissimilar, they make the US rhyme.*

*God Bless America, don't forget about us,*

*For ignorance is not tolerated, and is not plain just.*

*We are the your fellow Hispanics, full with different backgrounds,*

*Some are colored, some are not, and some may be newly found.*

*God Bless America, assimilation is a must,*

*Building relationships and gaining friendships, paved the roads to trust.*

*We all come together, singing the same tune,*

*And celebrate the same holidays, like the fourth of July after June.*

*God Bless America, We too sing your song,*

*And it is our co-operation and pride that makes us one of the among.*

*So please America, never forget,*

*I too sing America, and there are still many more to sing yet!*



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English 4  
June 2, 2006  
Mr. Bristol

*“Night” Section 3*

In Section 3 of Night, Ellie Wiesel begins to express his overall reaction to the Holocaust in general. The quote by Eliezer “Never shall I forget these things, even if I am condemned to live as long as God Himself. Never. “As the Jews are notified of their fate, Eliezer becomes shocked. He cannot believe such harm and an event can be done to humanity. Everyone just relies on the faith of God and prays. Eliezer is so appalled by the events and the thing he sees leads him to skepticism. As a human at that age, all the things we see cannot be believed. Its as if you whole life, you were used to somethings, daily routines, then suddenly, everything is horrible, not in the sense of what you do, but in the sense of what you see.

I personally feel bad for Eliezer. Not only him but everyone. Having witnessing everything he has at a young amateur age is rather difficult. As students, we always learned about what happened in the Holocaust. But that’s one perspective. Reading this book and progressing every chapter, makes you feel the witness’s perspective. How it felt like to be at that certain moment. What were you thinking, what were you feeling, what were you doing...It is these examples that should be included into the understanding of the Holocaust.

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English 4

Mr. Bristol

June 12, 2006

**Candide Reaction**

Candide goes through many events in this novel. One chapter an event occurs and Candide supports Pangloss's theory resulting in punishment. Another chapter, another situation comes to hand, and he may do the opposite but he still receives consequences. In the beginning, readers may become confused on whether Candide is learning his lesson or not. But after witnessing "real" events such as chaos, war, and earthquakes, along with the fellowship of Jacques, Pangloss, and many others, Candide soon learns his morals.

Mr. Bristol

English 4

May 23, 2006

Overall Reflection

My overall development this year as a student is progressing in sense of taking literature and text to the "next level" As a student, I would write down all the notes possible given by teachers and procedures used to carefully resolve the problem. Then I would try to make it sense in my personal aspect, by combining it into a type of method. This method could be something designed to help me remember words, meanings, relation to text, or specific ideas. ~~Honestly, I proved this to be useful.~~

like what?

This has proved to be very useful.

One skill or technique I struggled in was writing an essay. Not specifically the procedure of writing the method rather the development of a well thesis statement or topic sentence. As a reader, thinker, or writer, I considered myself very skilled at. I consider my mind very creative and for example, a short thinking sentence would take me a considerable long time. The reason why is because when I read the sentence or text, I like to relate it to anything I can think of. I find as many relations as possible. I also like to think critical and break the text down in hopes of finding something outstanding.

This proved to be a problem. I had a known habit of incorporating all my thought ideas into my thesis statement. It resulted being multiple thesis statements in one. ~~one~~ ~~opinion~~ that cannot exist because in an essay you argue one point. However, I continued my daily method of trying to gather as much information and notes that may help me in

Discuss more.

Last year in English, I had done well in reading of novels and also the analyzing it. Skills I lacked last year were understanding literary devices and comparing them to the

novel and the text itself. However, this year, students and teachers worked hard on the understanding of it and were used more frequently using literary devices. The more practice I received, the better I became. *at what*

My Goals for Improvement over the next year in terms of these skills to better improve my skills in writing of essays. I consider essays a major block path between me and my success in English. I believe that I must continue to work hard until I can finally defeat my weakness and ultimately master English. *What are your weaknesses in essays.*

My Strengths for English specifically included being a critical thinker, making outside connections, and understanding of the text. These skills helped me become an exceptional English student inside of class and at home when doing homework. My weaknesses for English are the inability to organize all my thoughts and ideas and inability to develop a well thought out thesis statement/topic sentence. *two points*

My candid reaction to the quality of my work this course *Don't copy* would be inconsistent and settling for satisfactory grades. I was very inconsistent with my work, assignment, projects, and homework. Honestly, I considered Consistency the keyword to my success. Consistence along with hard work. Hopefully by next year, I would show those two words, and in the end, *of what?* ~~be~~ confident that the work will show and the reward is worth it.

*I am*

- *Examples of how you improved from last year.*
- *Discuss your strengths + weaknesses more + in more detail.*

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Mr. Bristol

English 4

June 6, 2006

**Overall Reflection**

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Final Grade

90 A-

# MHSHS

Portfolio

Bristol

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title of Work: \_\_\_\_\_

	20	17	14	11	
<b>Overall Organization</b>	All components of portfolio are clear, present, well-organized, and complete.	Most components of portfolio are present, organized, and complete. Might be missing a revision or contain an unsatisfactory reflection.	Fulfills some requirements of the portfolio. Missing two or more components.	Fulfills few if any of the requirements of the portfolio. Missing many / components.	<u>17</u>
<b>Creative Presentation</b>	Fulfills all visual requirements. Portfolio excels in neatness and creativity. Goes above and beyond.	Fulfills most visual requirements. Is neat and creative.	Fulfills some of the visual requirements. May be lacking in neatness or creativity.	Fulfills few if any of the visual requirements. Is messy and / or lacks in creativity.	<u>16</u>
<b>Reflections</b>	Exhibits an exceptionally honest, candid ability to reflect upon one's self and work in the overall self-reflection, all other reflections and portfolio conference.	Exhibits a basic ability to reflect upon one's self and work in the overall self-reflection, all other reflections and portfolio conference.	Is lacking in some aspects of one or more reflections. Displays an incomplete ability to reflect on one's work in writing or conference.	Is lacking in many aspects of many of the reflections. Does not display an ability to reflect on one's work in writing or conference.	<u>15</u>
<b>Revisions</b>	Has shown exceptional and thoughtful revisions in every piece of work. All revision drafts are present.	Has shown thoughtful revision in every piece of work. Most revisions are present.	Has shown revisions in some pieces of work. Some revisions are present.	Has shown insufficient revisions in many pieces of work. Few revisions are present.	<u>15</u>
<b>Mechanics and Grammar</b>	Components have no errors in punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.	Components have one or two punctuation, capitalization, and spelling errors.	Components have several punctuation, capitalization, and spelling errors which do not hinder the ability to comprehend.	Components have several errors in punctuation, capitalization, and spelling which hinder the ability to comprehend.	<u>17</u>
				<b>Total—&gt;</b>	<u>80</u>

Teacher Comments: