TAFT COLLEGE

English 1600

***Hamlet* Essay Topics**

Read the play with one of the following topics in mind and **select** one of the following topics:

1) Explore **three** literary allusions used by Shakespeare throughout the play. (See class handout.) Explain the allusion and discuss how it fits into either the plot or character development in the context of the play at that point.
2) Hamlet, Laertes, and Fortinbras have all lost their fathers under different circumstances. Explain those circumstances. Discuss how each seeks revenge but proceeds in a different manner. Why are those differences important to the message of the play? What is the conclusion in the lives of these three *personae*?
3) What are some of Hamlet's internal conflicts? Consider Hamlet's loyalty to his father and his position as a leader of state. What is the source of Hamlet's suicidal language? Does he truly wish to end his life? Why or why not? What causes him to feel this way?
4) Compare and contrast Ophelia and Queen Gertrude. Explore their roles in the culture of that time. Discuss their personalities, motivations, and moral character.

Write an essay of **at least four pages /1200+ words**.

1) Use MLA format for headings, in-text citations, Works Cited page, margins, and double spacing between all lines.
2) Put the Word Count on the right at the bottom of the last page of the essay.
3) Your writing **PROCESS** earns a separate grade. Review the rubric from the course's syllabus and aim for accuracy of elements to earn a passing score.

Review the sample student essay on pages 1522-1526.