

Task: Write an argumentative essay on the suggested topic

Topic: Hamlet's Insanity of Sanity

Type: Argumentative essay

Length: 3 pages

Formatting: MLA

Requirements:

Write an argumentative essay dwelling on Hamlet's insanity.

Name

Professor's Name

Course

Date

Hamlet's Insanity of Sanity

Introduction

Insanity is presented in an ambiguous way in the Shakespearean drama, *Hamlet*.

Hamlet's insanity can be deemed to be an act of deception designed to draw the attention away from his **wary** activities as he tries to gather incriminating evidence against his brother. As he reveals to Horatio his wicked plan to feign insanity, it becomes apparent that he **is planning to revenge for his father** who appears to him in a ghost-like form. However, like most Shakespearean dramas, the author does not mention whether Hamlet's actions are actually crazy in his attempts to feign **madness**. According to **FreeDictionary.com**, insanity infers to state of a serious mental illness.

Hamlet's mental instability is exemplified through a series of impulsive behaviors and cases of mental instability which are proven by those around him.

Hamlet's impulsive behavior is apparent when he kills Polonius, Guildenstern and Rosencrantz before attempting to jump into **the grave during their funeral**. **On the one hand, Shakespeare attempts to establish that the protagonist is indeed a noble individual is demonstrated when Hamlet expresses his regret for his antagonism with Laertes when he realizes that the latter was driven by anger in his quest for vengeance.** On the contrary, those around

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Comment [1]: I don't think you know what that means.

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Comment [2]: Something is missing....

MostAwfulEssays 3/19/15 3:04 PM

Comment [3]: Forgetting a period should be a sin.

MostAwfulEssays 3/19/15 3:04 PM

Comment [4]: Totally random sentence achieved.

MostAwfulEssays 3/19/15 3:05 PM

Comment [5]: Shortest paragraph in history.

MostAwfulEssays 3/19/15 3:07 PM

Comment [6]: Which funeral? Not really specific, are we?

MostAwfulEssays 3/19/15 3:08 PM

Comment [7]: One of the most confusing sentences I have read in my life.

Hamlet can attest to his impulsive behavior through such instances as when he stabs Polonius, oblivious that he is harming people that are on his side.

Accordingly, Hamlet's behavior drastically alters the perception of the characters around him in regards to how they relate and talk to him. However, it is ambiguous to ascertain whether Hamlet's insanity is real or feigned even as his actions creates even more confusion in court. Thus, Hamlet's mental condition cannot be ascertained due to the complexity of the matter and the numerous ways through which his actions can be conceptualized. Contrarily, it can be argued that Hamlet is **sane as he only** seems to act crazy among certain **people whereas he** demonstrates normal prince like behavior. Throughout the play, Hamlet's insanity is feigned in order to obtain vengeance for his father's murderers. The fact that he kills those who deliver Claudius' letters despite the fact that they were just obeying the king's orders best illustrates his level of **irrationalness** and impulsiveness (V. ii. 48). His sanity as the prince is also questioned when he fights and jumps into the grave during the murder of his three victims.

Not only are Hamlet's actions impulsive but it can also be proven that he also has an unstable mental condition. This is demonstrated by his lack of remorse for murdering Guidenstern, Polonius and Rosencrantz. Further, he reveals no sense of guilt for executing two of his friends. The fact that he also puts to death the king's messengers indicates that he has no regard for servicemen devoted to **the king as believes** that those who appear not to be on his side deserve to die. Hamlet's impunity is further demonstrated by the fact that he feels no guilt for putting Polonius to death accidentally. The antagonist's mental instability is also indicated by the fact that he constantly and solely sees **is** father's ghost. Hamlet's lack of remorse despite murdering three people reveals that **there is uncertainty on his state of insanity** (III.iv.140).

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Comment [8]: Comma, where art thou?

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Comment [9]: Come on.... comma.

MostAwfulEssays 3/19/15 3:10 PM

Comment [10]: Made a new word. Good for you.

MostAwfulEssays 3/19/15 3:11 PM

Comment [11]: Please comma.... come to the rescue.

MostAwfulEssays 3/19/15 3:12 PM

Comment [12]: Confused.

MostAwfulEssays 3/19/15 3:12 PM

Comment [13]: Or shows that he is actually insane, which would be more plausible

After making his resolve to avenge his father's death, Hamlet's actions cause the characters around him to question his sanity. He particularly acts irrationally around Polonius and Ophelia who are appalled by his behavior. His mother Gertrude assumes that Hamlet is just upset due to his father's death and her marriage to Claudius. Ophelia concludes that her friend has lost sanity during a recent confrontation in which she declares that his noble mind is **o'erthrown** (III.i.150). This illustrates that even Hamlet's spouse had noticed that he was going crazy. Polonius' skepticism also leads him to eavesdrop on his friend to confirm his **irrationalness**. Although Gertrude appears to care for his son throughout the play, Hamlet's words and actions leads her to question Hamlet's actions. Hence, the protagonist's friends, subjects and relatives question his mental stability.

From the foregoing, it can be argued that Hamlet was capable of feigning madness; he progressively becomes more impulsive throughout the play which culminates in the death of **eight people including his close friends and king's messengers**. However, it can also be argued that the protagonist chooses to act mad in order to attain vengeance over his father's murderer. Thus, Hamlet chooses to act mad in order to have an advantage over his foes.

In conclusion, this essay identifies madness as a consistent theme throughout Shakespeare's *Hamlet* which mostly centers on the protagonist, Hamlet. While it can be argued that the appearance of the ghost leads Hamlet and other characters to question reality, his own sanity is put **into** test for believing in ghosts and his obsession for avenging his father's death. All in all, Hamlet acts mad throughout the play and the primary issue of insanity in this literary work is whether Hamlet suffers from a mental condition in the end. Examining Hamlet's later acts can perhaps reveal whether he is indeed mad.

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Comment [14]: You getting all Victorian on us, huh?

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Comment [15]: You are not Shakespeare, alright. You don't get to make up words, IN AN ESSAY.

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Comment [16]: I don't think you like commas too much.

MostAwfulEssays 3/19/15 3:19 PM

Comment [17]: Boringggggg transition.

MostAwfulEssays 3/19/15 3:19 PM

Comment [18]: Don't over-explain things. It makes you look weird.

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Comment [19]: Wrong preposition, buddy.

Overall Impression

I almost went insane reading this essay, as the writer seemed to repeat himself or herself often. Besides, the writer forgot about basic punctuation and technique.