

## AP English Literature and Composition

### Revision Activity for Multiple-Choice Analysis Paragraphs

**Directions:** Read the following 5 original sentences and 5 revisions made by Dr. Godat and/or Ms. Boyd. Explain how each revision improves upon the original sentence.

#### Topic Sentence

Original: In Act I Scene III Iago utilizes his skills as a master manipulator to both consul and put himself in a place of trust and authority to Roderigo.

Revision: Iago's skills as a master manipulator of Roderigo reveal Iago's complexity by manifesting the synthesis of his perceptive yet duplicitous character.

#### Textual Evidence

Original: When Emilia enters the scene again with Desdemona, Othello begins to inquire and interrogating her about her being a cheater.

Revision: When Emilia enters with Desdemona, Othello uses imperative verbs such as "leave," "shut the door," "cough or cry 'hem'," and "dispatch" to dismiss Emilia before interrogating Desdemona about her infidelity. His commands in this context reflect his \_\_\_\_\_. . . .

#### Literary Analysis (1)

Original: Othello refers to Desdemona as a pearl, a precious gem, and how he has to throw it away, that is a great example of him using metaphor.

Revision: Through the metaphorical comparison that he is "a base Indian" who "threw a pearl away richer than all his tribe," Othello conveys his understanding of Desdemona's beauty and worth and his recognition of his own tragic flaw in murdering her. By equating her to a "pearl" that is "richer than all his tribe," Othello illustrates that Desdemona is a paragon; in describing himself as someone "base," he juxtaposes his position with hers and thus acknowledges his failure as "one that loved not wisely."

#### Literary Analysis (2)

Original: Using parallelism, Othello hyperbolizes the whole situation by saying goodbye to all victorious things like "the neighing steed," "the shrill thump," and "the spirit-stirring drum."

*Note the student's topic sentence read as follows: "Othello employs several literary devices to emphasize that he is one who believes that ignorance is bliss, revealing that cowardice is Othello's true character."*

Revision: By employing parallelism with the repetition of "farewell" and a catalog of images reflecting his career as a general—"the neighing steed," "the shrill thump," "the spirit-stirring drum," "th' ear piercing fife," and "the royal banner"—Othello dramatizes his histrionic nature. Othello concludes this litany of farewells by exclaiming that "all quality" of his "occupation" are now gone. By allowing Desdemona's supposed infidelity to affect his work, Othello shows both the melodramatic and slightly cowardly side of his nature.

#### Concluding Sentence

Original: The world wary Emilia serves to guide Desdemona through her trials at the hands of Othello and Iago and served as her protector until her absence allowed Desdemona's murder, testifying to Emilia's varied and rich character.

Original Topic Sentence: In Act IV Scene II Emilia is juxtaposed to Desdemona through conversation in order to highlight Emilia's pragmatic worldview in comparison to Desdemona's naïve idealism as well as reinforce Emilia as the foil to Desdemona.

Revision: Because of Emilia's pragmatic worldview, she is able to not only serve as a foil to the idealistic Desdemona but also to function as her protector; once the manipulated Othello removes Emilia from Desdemona's chamber, the tragic outcome as planned by Iago—and foreshadowed by Desdemona's singing of "Willow"—becomes inevitable.

## Students' Turn

1. Original Textual Evidence Sentence for Question 65: Emilia also contemplates upon equality between men and women, as she states that "[Men] are all but stomachs, and we all but food: They eat us hungrily, and when they are full, They belch us."
2. Original Concluding Sentence for Question 73: Desdemona then displays a terrified behavior shortly before Othello smothers her, gradually displaying a more desperate plea for her innocent life.

*Before revision note the essay's revised topic sentence (90% is original student work) to help with the revision of the conclusion: Desdemona's pleas before her death accentuate the pessimism that she exerts through a juxtaposition of Othello's bitter language to highlight her infidelity with her perplexed, yet innocent character.*

3. Original Topic Sentence for Question 43: In Othello's speech in lines 69-76, his attitude toward Iago and Desdemona could best be described as (d) paradoxical.

## Humanities Review: Unit 1 Perfidy and Betrayal

The following is a list of thinkers, authors, artists and philosophers that you have encountered over the last nine weeks.

Aristotle	(384 BCE to 322 BCE)
Dante Alighieri	(1265-1321)
Fra Angelico	(1395-1455)
Hans Memling	(1430-1494)
Martin Schongauer	(1448-1491)
Hieronymus Bosch	(1450-1516)
Niccolo Machiavelli	(1469-1527)
Albrecht Dürer	(1471-1528)
Hans Baldung Grien	(1484-1545)
Pieter Bruegel	(1525-1569)
Miguel de Montaigne	(1533-1592)
Edmund Spenser	(1552-1599)
William Shakespeare	(1564-1616)
Jacob Vosmaer	(1574-1641)
Thomas Hobbes	(1588-1679)
Thomas Nashe	(1593-1647)
Willem Heda	(1593-1680)
Pieter Claesz	(1597-1660)
Phillip de Champaigne	(1602-1674)
John Milton	(1608-1674)
Abraham van Beyeren	(1620-1690)
Andrew Marvell	(1621-1678)
Willem van Aelst	(1627-1683)
Rachel Ruysch	(1664-1750)
William Hegel	(1770-1833)
Percy Bysshe Shelley	(1792-1822)
Mary Shelley	(1797-1851)
Frederick Nietzsche	(1844-1900)
Robert Frost	(1874-1963)
W.H. Auden	(1907-1973)
Northrop Frye	(1912-1991)
E.O. Wilson	(1929- )
Sylvia Plath	(1932-1963)
August Wilson	(1945-2005)
Tom Wayman	(1945- )
Steven Pinker	(1954- )