

WV TREE Resource: English Language Arts

Resource Name: Hamlet Synthesis Question

Grade Level(s): 5th Grade 6th Grade 7th Grade 8th Grade 9th Grade
 10th Grade 11th Grade 12th Grade

Resource Summary/Overview: This resource contains sources and formatting so that students can argue the question “Is Hamlet guilty of the murder of King Claudius”

Length: 2-3 45 minute class periods are needed depending on student ability

Domain(s) Addressed: Reading Writing Speaking/Listening Language

West Virginia College- and Career-Readiness Standards:
ELA.11.20, ELA 11.27

Delivery Method(s): Direct Instruction Whole Group Pairs
 Small Group Computer-based Individual
 Other (explain): [Click here to enter text.](#)

Resource Materials: Text(s) Handouts Media Rubric
 Other (explain): [Click here to enter text.](#)

Resource Purpose(s): Engage/Activate Introduce Topic/Skill Review Topic/Skill
 Formative Assessment Summative Assessment
 Reinforce Skill Enrichment Intervention/Support
 Other (explain): [Click here to enter text.](#)

Instructor Notes: The attached synthesis prompt on the play Hamlet works to engage students with the text by arguing whether young Hamlet should be convicted of the murder of King Claudius or not. Though Hamlet is dead at the end of the text, students enjoy engaging in discussion about whether or not Hamlet was innocent due to insanity, not guilty due to self-defense, or simply a murderer who would (if he lived) deserve conviction. These sources are set up in a similar manner to Advanced Placement English prompts, but would work well for non-AP coursework too. Students must evaluate the sources and then use their own knowledge of the play to develop their argument. Extension activities could include adding more sources or character deaths to further clarify or complicate the argument. An additional link to Drew University’s guide to synthesis may help students struggling with synthesis writing.