



King Lear

You will be writing an essay in response to William Shakespeare's *King Lear*. The essay will be at least 1000 words typed and double spaced. You will turn in a hard copy as well as an electronic copy to turnitin.com by 10/10/16.

Choose one of the following statements to discuss and respond to. Do not use any of the statements as a thesis, but instead as a place to begin. Ask the question, "So what?" The answer will be your thesis.

1. There are many kinds of suffering in *King Lear* and little consolation.
2. Unlike other dramatists, who used 'mad scenes' for comic effect, Shakespeare seems intent on a serious portrayal of madness in *King Lear*.
3. Lear's fool is a jester by profession, but the effect he creates is not one of professional control and expertise, but of jokes pulled out of agony and frustration.
4. *King Lear* is a play in which madness is the key to the realization of the truth.
5. Gloucester's physical blindness is a mirror image of Lear's spiritual blindness.
6. Shakespeare's *King Lear* is a play of redemption in which the King moves from moral blindness to a clearer vision of what really matters.