

A Hamlet Parody: Ay, there's the rub

Your task: Demonstrate your understanding of literary devices and this most famous speech through application and imitation.

Directions:

After careful study (read: paraphrasing) of Hamlet's "To be or not to be" soliloquy from Act III.i, write your own version of the speech. You may be funny or serious or whatever else you decide. You should follow the basic structure of the original.

Some possible topics are:

- To love or not to love, that is the question
- To study or not to study, that is the question
- To break up with my boy/girlfriend right before prom, or not..., that is the question

I realize there are loads of these on the World Wide Web, so use them for models only.

Guidelines

The most successful speeches will:

- Follow narrative structure of original
 - Establish question and two sides of an issue
 - Philosophically argue both sides
 - Include a list
 - Reach a conclusion
 - Contain close to the same amount of lines as original
- Experiment with stylistic devices: plays with syntax (rhetorical, interjections, sentence patterns, etc.) – diction – detail – imagery – figurative language – allusions – chiasmus – litotes – hyperbole – simile – metaphor – pun – meter
- Have clarity of thought and language
- Show evidence of intellectual time and effort and go the extra mile – funny, creative, serious, interesting, lots of style, great attention to rhythm or meter, etc.
 - Include a footnote if you have tried something special that you'd like to point out or explain

RUBRIC

Speech...	Not Attempted (0)	Attempted (1-3)	Achieved (4-5)
Follows narrative structure and establishes a question and two sides of an issue			
Philosophically argues both sides of a question and reaches a conclusion			
Experiments with stylistic devices and includes several examples or rhetorical and literary devices			
Has clarity of thought and language			
Shows evidence of intellectual time and effort			
TOTAL:			