**English 7-8 Hamlet Packet**
**Mr. Burge**



Unlike many other literary works that we will be studying, MOST of our Hamlet reading will take place in class. However, you will be responsible for creating a packet to help you keep track of the play. Create a packet of notes, observations, and writings that is organized, legible, and of professional quality. Your packet must contain:

**Introduction:**

* Your notes about Shakespeare and the history of the English Language.
* A character sheet that describes and tracks the most important characters in the play.

**For each Scene**:

* An appropriate title for the scene.
* A 3-5 sentence summary (in YOUR words) of the scene.
* *At least* one quotation that you find interesting and a brief paragraph explaining why you chose it.

**Acts I, III, and V**:
Three one page essays that answer the following questions. These essays are due two class periods after we finish the specified act:

* Act I: Should Hamlet have agreed to his father’s request? Write a persuasive/argumentative essay that uses textual evidence to prove your claim. Make sure that your essay addresses both sides of the issue.
* Act III: Choose one of Hamlet’s soliloquies up to this point (or later if you have read ahead). Write an explanatory passage that uses TEXTUAL evidence to:
	+ Explain what plot event causes or precedes the soliloquy
	+ Summarize what Hamlet is saying in the soliloquy and how it develops him as a character
	+ Describe what the soliloquy resolves or how it advances the plot.
* Act V: Write a one page Thematic Analysis of Hamlet. Details and prewriting to be done in class.

I will check and or collect this packet after we finish each act, so you should treat this as nightly homework. The three writings will be due one week after we finish an act in class.