**Much Ado About Nothing ~ Final Project**

**Option One: Music Video Assignment:**

Your production group will create a music video that captures the essence of *Much Ado About Nothing*. You will need to select a song that highlights a central theme, and then you will artistically tell the story of the play through your visuals, and be prepared to explain your video in front of the class.

**Step One:**
Examine what you believe to be the central theme of the play, and select a song that highlights the theme. Do NOT simply select a song that has a similar plot line. The song will set the tone of your interpretation of the play; so make sure that the tone established is one you want.

**Step Two:**
Determine what you wish to emphasize in the play— which parts are crucial to your interpretation? Spend more time on the parts that are significant to your interpretation. Do not simply devote a large amount of time to a scene that “looks cool.” You will also need to develop three visual motifs— have three recurring objects that have great symbolic value throughout the video. Don’t forget to consider costume selection, lighting, setting, and camera angles. All creative choices should reflect your interpretation of the play, and you should be prepared to explain how the choices prove your point. Create an outline for the video with a brief explanation of each stylistic choice.

**Step Three:**
Create the video. The video should visually re-tell the story of *Much Ado About Nothing*. All creative choices (especially the acting) should enhance your interpretation of the play. Feel free to be sarcastic, overly dramatic, intense, funny, serious, or playful as long as it matches your interpretation of the play.

**What I will be looking for when I grade:**
- Depth and consistency of your interpretation of the play
- Evidence that all creative choices were selected to enhance the interpretation
- Creativity
- Overall appeal of video

**Key Artistic Choices to Be Made:**
- **Song Selection** — Remember that the song lyrics should be linked to a key theme, and the melody of the song should enhance your interpretation.
- **Setting** — Indoors? Outdoors? Confining? Dominant colors? Symbolic objects surrounding them? Consider what is being said if it is set at a 7/11, Chuck E Cheese, a dark room, a young girl’s bedroom, or a tree-house.
- **Costumes** — Have the costumes set the tone for each character. Which ones should be dressed alike? Consider the colors you choose, the styles of clothing, etc.
- **Motifs** — you will need to select objects that are symbolic in nature, and will need to be able to explain their significance. i.e. an apple to represent the “fall” of Adam and Eve mirroring *Hero and Claudio’s* “fall”, or a box to represent Pandora’s Box, and all the troubles of the world, etc.
- **Lighting/Camera Angles/ Special Effects** — Consider when a close-up (the audience is drawn inside the drama) is most appropriate, and when a wide-angle shot (audience receives a more broad perspective) would work better. Should the lighting be dark and dreary? Blindingly light? Use these to enhance the tone you are attempting to establish.

**What you will turn in to me:**
- Your video and fully developed video outline
- A fully developed description of your interpretation of the play
- An explanation as to how your stylistic choices enhanced the interpretation
- A list of what each member of the group contributed to the final product.

- *Other Options on Reverse* -
Option Two: Photographic Dialogue Essay : Alone or with one partner
Capture your perception of the play in photographs which you put together as a photographic dialogue folder that reflects an in-depth understanding of the play.

- You will select a theme and write a thesis statement
- You will select accompanying quotations, and write annotations that explain what your essay “means”.
- You will also need to develop at least three visual motifs - have at least three recurring objects that have great symbolic value throughout the photographic essay.
- You will take photos - the camera will be your “eye” – your critical “lens” of the play, Act by Act, scene by scene.

By focusing on a central theme, your photographs will convey the significance of the play in relation to the atmosphere, setting, imagery, tone, etc. Incorporating the most effective, relevant, appropriate quotations for your theme (each quotation is a “topic sentence” for your thesis), each photograph will explain visually the “meaning” of the selected quotations. Your recurring motifs will enhance your thesis, chosen theme, and your quotations. With these elements, your entire photographic dialogue is a synthesis of your understanding of the play and its characters.

Steps:
1. Decide upon a theme that you will explore through photographs that YOU take and manipulate; then write your own thesis statement. This will be your “introduction” – accompanied by a photograph.
2. You will also need to develop at least three visual motifs - make certain your motifs have great symbolic value throughout the photographic essay.
3. Select 10 - 15 quotations (two to three for each Act) and take photographs for each. Don’t forget to indicate Act, scene, line #s!
4. Annotate each quotation (You should have fifteen). That is, write a short paragraph (5 lines or so each) below each quotation to explain its significance and connection to the photograph.
5. Write your own “conclusion” (an original closing statement) and take a photograph to accompany that conclusion.
6. Add a front cover/title page with an evocative, provocative, compelling title that reflects the essence of your dialogue essay. Illustrate your front cover in a creative way.

Be certain to:
- Take photographs that “comment on”, capture, and evoke the theme of your dialogue.
- Arrange each photograph in a presentable format with its quotation, so that you have one quotation, photograph, and annotation as a grouping.

Ideas for photograph manipulation:
- Color – contrast, shadows, use of/lack of color, sunlight, black and white, etc.
- Spatial features – confined or open spaces, low or high ceilings, tall or short framing, cramped objects, people, etc.
- Setting – indoors, outside, where indoors or outside, close-up or far-away images, etc.
- Objects – furniture, symbols, scene set-ups, etc.
- People – several or few, none, children, the aged, teenagers, etc.
- Creative manipulation – shapes of photographs, anything that shows imagination and thinking!

Option Three: Interpretive Essay : Alone
Select ONE of the following essay topics as a springboard for a profound and interesting essay that reveals deep thinking about the play.

1. Shakespeare utilizes the motif of masks in the play twice - once at the masked ball, and again at Hero’s disguised marriage. What does his use of masks in these instances imply?
2. What is the ideal combination of eros (creative, often sexual yearning, love, or desire), philia (love of friendship, best friends, and fellowship), and agape (selfless love of one person for another without sexual implications - especially love that is spiritual in nature) in a relationship that is headed towards marriage? You may use percentages to describe the ideal combination and/or you may argue for only one of the three. Use the couples in Much Ado for evidence.
3. Create your own essay prompt based on the play, Much Ado About Nothing and write a reflective essay. Please have Mrs. Chadwick review your prompt and thesis before you begin!