

ENG4U: *King Lear*

Unit 4 Assignments

Our study of *King Lear* is going to rely heavily on your ability to analyse and produce media texts. You will select a scene to analyse and present in an audio-visual format to the class. You will also notice the questions you have about the text, and explore them in an academic collaborative essay with a partner.

Unit Marks Allocation	
Reflective Blogging	20
Multi-media Scene Presentation	60
Collaborative Essay	50
In-class Reflection	20
Total Marks Available	150

1	Reflective Blogging (6 posts, 6 comments)	20
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At least two times each week for the three weeks of this unit, you will write a post sharing a question that *King Lear* has raised for you, and outlining your first reactions to or thoughts about the question. Because you will be developing a collaborative essay around one of these questions, you only need to comment on one other student's post at a time.

2	Multi-Media Scene Presentation – due Dec. 3	60
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Choose a scene from the options available (attached) and assemble a group of the appropriate size for that scene. (Each scene has a minimum and maximum number of students able to work on it.)

1. Edit

- Make copies of the scene's text for everyone in the group.
- Read the scene aloud going around the group. As you read, circle any words and phrases you don't understand.
- Get definitions for those words (check your notes, the dictionary, or a Shakespeare glossary).
- Read again, deciding together what each speech means. (Refer to your notes for this.)
- Read again, deciding on the objective of each character.
- Decide how your passage fits into the context of the act and the whole play.

2. Cast

- When everyone has a comfortable understanding of the scene, cast parts.
- If you don't have enough people in your group, you may have members 'double' (play two parts – use a obvious change in voice to signal this).
- Decide whether to appoint a director to oversee the whole production or to act together in making all decisions.

3. Characterize

- Read through your lines silently and aloud many times until you're sure you understand every word, phrase, and sentence.
- Identify your objective in the passage. (Use your notes from Part 1 to do this.)
- Decide what words, phrases, or ideas need to be stressed and indicate that on your script.
- Decide where pauses are appropriate and indicate them on your script.
- Read your part aloud many times. You do not have to fully memorize the part, but you should feel completely comfortable with it when you record it.

4. Sound Effects and Music

- Read through the scene, noticing the setting. Imagine background noise or music that would help listeners imagine the setting, and think about how you might produce and record that. Discuss whether the noise should be loud or soft, ongoing throughout the scene or fading out once speaking starts.
- Read through the scene, noticing character entrances and exits. Decide how you might signal these with appropriate sounds (opening / closing doors; footsteps; horses hooves; etc.) or music. Discuss how you will produce and record these.
- Read through the scene again, noticing any other movements or actions that might suggest noise. Plan for ways of producing these sound effects.
- Read through the scene with the planned sound effects and music clips several times.
- Note any extra props that you might need to produce the sound effects.

5. Rehearse

Rehearse your scene several times. Remember, the more you practice, the more effective your recording will be.

6. Record

Use Audacity to record your scene.

7. Find Images

- Find or create images that evoke emotions associated with your scene. You should expect to have at least one different image for every 10 seconds of the scene.
- Put the images in an order that best complements the scene.
- Using MovieMaker, set the images to the audio track recorded earlier.

Your multi-media presentations will be shown to the entire class in order of appearance in the play. You will be evaluated by me as well as by some of your peers.

3 Collaborative Essay – due Dec. 10
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You will be assigned a partner for this project. With your partner, review the different questions that you each posted throughout our study of *King Lear*. (You should have six questions each.) Identify questions where you and your partner differ in your opinions. From these, select the question that is most interesting to you both.

Choose one of you to open the essay. This person should write a letter to the other outlining his/her opinion in 300-500 words, with specific references to the text as appropriate. Then the second should respond with his/her opinion. Continue the letter exchange until each of you has written at least three letters. **The point of this exercise is not to convince your partner of your opinion; rather, it is to fully express your ideas in response to a direct and friendly critique.** At all times your tone should remain respectful and thoughtful, as appropriate for an academic paper.

I recommend that you use the class wiki to conduct your exchange. Create a page for your dialogue, and post the final copy of your essay there.

Compile your letter exchange into a single, coherent document with an introduction and conclusion. Make use of headings to clarify your communication. Proofread your entire essay, including your partner's work. Ensure that references to the text are properly cited.

4 In-Class Reflection – Dec. 10
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You will be invited in class to reflect on several questions related to our study of *King Lear*.

