

*Merchant of Venice* composition directions

Week 1: During the week of 1/14-1/21, you are to choose a topic for a 5-paragraph composition that will be written about *Merchant of Venice*.

Think through some of the main ideas by asking yourself questions or use some of the questions I have asked in the study questions given for each act.

EX. What is the role of music in Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*?

How are Jessica and Portia different in their relationship with their fathers?

What logic pattern does Portia use in her defense of Antonio?

Given that a comedy is a lighter form of drama that aims primarily to amuse, and that it concludes with a happy ending, why does *The Merchant of Venice* qualify as a comedy?

Can Shylock be considered the main character of this play? On what grounds?

Once you have topic from above OR one you come up with yourself, try to write the opening paragraph ONLY.

The opening paragraph should be 2-4 sentences in length and these 4 things should be woven into the first paragraph:

- the title of the play (*The Merchant of Venice*)
- the author's name (William Shakespeare)
- a central idea sentence
- a thesis statement. In the thesis statement there must be three points to prove or ideas that will be treated in the main body of the composition.

Think more than you write. You need a good idea for the paper.