**Hamlet Act I Group work**

In groups of 4 discuss the assigned question. Create a poster with a graphic to represent your main idea(s), at least three quotations, and three to four key words or phrases. You will present your poster to the class. The focus is on eye-contact and strong analysis.

1. Is Claudius a good king in Act I. What are three problems that he has to deal with? Does he deal with them effectively? Why or why not. Is Hamlet a serious threat to him?

2. Discuss three ways that the Great Chain of Being has been broken in Act I and how that relates to disease and beast imagery. Why are those two imagery patterns well-suited to show the break?

3. Chart Hamlet’s mood swings throughout the scene (at least three changes) and explain clearly what his state is and what makes him change at each stage. What is your overall assessment of his mental health and his ability to get revenge?

4. Compare and contrast how Ophelia and Hamlet are trapped by their social/political positions in this Act. Who or what traps them? Why can’t they escape or take action? What are the possible repercussions if they don’t obey?

5. Hamlet is mourning. How does he show his mourning? What advice is he given? Which stages of grief does he demonstrate in Act I? How does the ghost play on his grief? Will his grief be helpful or detrimental in getting revenge?

6. Both Claudius, Gertrude and Polonius seem to be very concerned with appearances. Give examples of how they “seem” and why. Hamlet now is going to “seem” by adopting an antic disposition. How might the seeming help or hinder him from getting revenge? Does becoming a “seemer” compromise him morally?

7. Discuss three of the dramatic purposes of the ghost in Act I. Do you think that meeting with the ghost helps or hinders Hamlet’s emotional state? Why?