The essay must be typed in 12 font (double-spaced) and formatted following MLA style for its bibliographic entries and its appearance in general. The essay should include the following:

* 2500 words
* A clear (argumentative) thesis
* Specifically constructed introductory and concluding paragraphs
* Unified, coherent, and developed body paragraphs
* Formal tone and diction
* Reference to at least three relevant, peer-reviewed secondary sources
* Reference to two to three plays
* Direct quotations from the plays under discussion to support its claims
* Appropriate in-text citations (Use act, scene, and line numbers for citing the plays in text.)
* A Works Cited page which accurately and fully identifies all primary and secondary sources used

Assignment (your task)

The research essay allows you the opportunity to develop ideas and undertake research in the form of an extended piece of argumentative writing.

Choose one of the topics below and narrow it down as necessary to create your thesis. Your essay should examine **two to three plays** and make use of at least **three relevant, peer-reviewed secondary sources**. The essay cannot examine more than one play which you have already written about in your two scene analysis assignments.

**Topic**:

Representations of authority—who has power (e.g. kings, politicians, parents siblings), how do they exercise it, and do the plays suggest that they deserve to have it?

**Thesis**:

Research question:

Who has power, how do they exercise it, and does Marriage a la mode, The Rover, and/or The Careless Lovers suggest that they deserve to have it?

Tories

Genealogy to contain enemies-male virility

Myth of the cavalier rake

Literature as a cudgel->politicization of plays

Censorship->shift in relationship of power and publication

**Plays:**

Marriage a la mode

The Rover

The Careless Lovers

**Secondary Sources:**

Cambridge Companion