English 112 - Carraway

*Othello* Essay Topics

For your first formal essay, I would like for you to research and write about one of the topics below. Your rough draft should be

* typed in 12 point Times New Roman
* at least 700 words
* double- spaced
* formatted in MLA style
* documented in-text and on a Works-Cited page (MLA)
* Uploaded to the Moodle link provided by the rough draft due date.

You will need to use 3 reputable sources (other than helper websites such as Cliff Notes, Spark Notes, Schmoop, etc.) to help prove your thesis statement. Sources found on NCLIVE are ideal for this essay, but there are plenty of good websites out there also. Wikipedia is NOT a reputable website. If you need a copy of the *Othello* book when not at school, there is a copy of our text online at <http://www.folgerdigitaltexts.org/?chapter=5&play=Oth&loc=p7>

Keep in mind that plagiarism is not allowed, so anything that is not common knowledge must be cited correctly in the text as well as on the Works Cited page. This includes information that you have put into your own words. Direct quotations from a source should be surrounded by quotation marks in addition to the in-text citations and Works Cited page. Do not wait until the last minute to begin on these, as these topics require research and critical thinking skills. Your topic choices are as follows:

1. Discuss how identity is not something stable, but changeable depending on the situation and the setting. Use examples from Othello and 3 other sources to prove your point.
2. The protagonist in *Othello* suffers an identity crisis. What elements of his identity were challenged and how did this crisis affect the character and those around him. Use your text and 3 other sources to prove your point.
3. What was the role of women in Elizabethan Society and how was it *reflected* in *Othello*? Give specific examples from the text as well as your other 3 sources to prove your point.
4. What were race relations like in Elizabethan Society and how are they reflected in the text of *Othello*? Give specific examples from the text as well as your other 3 sources to prove your point.