# In this essay I hope to characterize how Hamlet’s revenge plot against Claudius changes his perception of others. I also want to explore why Hamlet is so highly regarded as one of Shakespeare’s greatest plays and perhaps the greatest revenge tragedy. I will accomplish these tasks examine Hamlet along with two other revenge tragedies written in a similar time period, *The Spanish Tragedy* and *Titus Andronicus*. In particular I will characterize how Hamlet’s changes in perception are similar and different to the changes in perception of Hieronimo and Titus Andronicus, the respective protagonists of *The Spanish Tragedy* and *Titus Andronicus*.

# First I want to determine how the protagonists of these three plays perceptions change throughout the play.

## I need to determine how to find/characterize perceptions.

### Look at dialogue from protagonists, particularly in their soliloquies. See what adjectives they use to describe other characters. We can do this by identifying where other characters show up and looking at the n-grams in the windows.

#### Look at n-grams of other characters, particularly the adjectives. We can split the text up by act and get the top n-grams for each act. For the top 2 or 3 characters the main character talks to in a given act we can plot the top adjectives they use to describe.

### Look at words used to describe other characters, and tones of passages when the main character is describing other characters. For this I will have to do some sentiment analysis.

#### Go through text and find sentences and phrases where other character’s names appear, and use these phrases in the sentiment analysis. Use the different acts as the splits in time to see how things change over time. We can loop through the sentiment analysis output and plot the top sentiments.

### To see how a protagonist’s perception of themselves change, I will look at what words they use to describe themselves by using their own name, I, or me, and their general tone and language used both when describing characters and not.

#### I will also look at how the tones of their main speeches differs throughout the play. I need to get about 4-5 speeches for each character .

# Next I want to determine how these changes are due to the revenge plot

## This is probably best determined through close reading. I’ll look at the passages where I found perception changes and determine through close reading if this change in perception was due to the revenge plot

# Finally I’ll determine how the changes that the protagonists undergo are similar and different to each other

## This will be done by simply comparing the perceptions found of each of the characters.