*Othello* Literary Analysis

**Prompt**

Write a thorough analysis that traces Othello’s downfall as a tragic hero. Be sure to analyze *peripeteia* and *anagnorisis*.

Consider the following elements in your analysis of character transformation and revelation:

* Location—what connections exist between Othello’s behavior and choices in relation to Venice and Cyprus? What do those places represent in his transformation?
* Language—how do Othello’s diction and prosody (scansion analysis) reveal his transformation?
1. Find three different passages that clearly present Othello as a Venetian: in control of his emotions and language, civilized, balanced (“first words . . . last word” & line numbers)
2. Brief discussion to prove your point: how does each passage show that Othello has the above characteristics
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3. When they first arrive in Cyprus, find two passages that reveal Othello to be still in control of his emotions & prove your point (same as above)
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4. Three different passages throughout the rest of the play that show his unraveling in Cyprus (especially language/prosody)

**Requirements and Guidelines**

Assignment specifications: approximately three pages, typed, double-spaced; 1” margins; font size—equivalent of Times New Romans 12 or Calibri 11.

Documentation: Use MLA standard internal and Works Cited documentation.

You are NOT to use ANY secondary sources for your analysis (nothing about the work). Stick completely with the text and your own good brain!

Grammar & Composition Style:

* Write about literature in the present tense.
* Use third person pronouns.
* Use active voice. (ex. John broke the window. NOT—The window was broken.)
* Avoid expletives: *there* or *it* + *to be* verb form (ex. There is, there are, there will be, there was, it is, it has been, it will be, etc.)
* Support each point with specific textual passages; incorporate quotations into your own text—use only what you need, and document it! See MLA style guide for treatment of quoted verse passages—differentiate between passages of more than and fewer than four lines.
* Vary lengths and structures of sentences to achieve a natural rhythm.

Rough draft due Thursday for peer evaluation (typed).

Final draft due Monday.