Analysis Paper

*Taming of the Shrew* is one of Shakespeare’s more controversial plays due to the nature of the main relationship in the play. Petruchio makes it his goal to wed and ‘tame’ Kate, and during the beginning of their marriage, he tries to teach her obedience. At the end of the play, Kate makes a dramatic speech about a wife’s obedience and duty to her husband. Due to the humor in the play, scholars are still arguing about whether Kate was actually tamed, or if she was simply playing along to humor Petruchio.

In this paper (2-3 typed pages), you will be asked to analyze Kate’s last speech in the play. You must decide if her speech, and thus the entire play, is meant to be taken as a serious comment on gender expectations, or as a humorous satire on gender and relationships. You cannot make the argument that it is both – choose one or the other!

**In this paper, you will need to have a thesis statement on your main argument. You will need to include research into the historical context of the play. You will also need to include at least 3 direct quotations from the play to use as evidence for your argument.**

You will get Thursday and Friday to type this essay in class. This essay is due on Monday, March 25th at the beginning of class. If you need to finish this essay over the weekend, the entire play *Taming of the Shrew* is accessible for free on Google Books as well as other places on the internet.

Questions?

Style:

_____ / 2 Research on historical context came from legitimate sources (at least one source required)

_____ / 2 APA style Reference page is included – play and outside sources must be cited correctly

_____ / 2 Paper meets the length requirement of 2-3 pages typed, double spaced, size 12 font

_____ / 2 Language and punctuation is grammatically correct throughout the paper (peer edit!)

Content:

_____ / 3 Student made a clear argument and stuck to it throughout the paper

_____ / 3 Student included a thesis statement at the end of their first paragraph

_____ / 3 Student used at least 3 direct quotations from the play *Taming of the Shrew* as evidence

_____ / 3 Student used research on historical context as evidence in their paper

Total: ________ / 20 points
Fie, fie! unknit that threatening unkind brow,
And dart not scornful glances from those eyes
To wound thy lord, thy king, thy governor.
It blots thy beauty as frosts do bite the meads,
Confounds thy fame as whirlwinds shake fair buds,
And in no sense is meet or amiable.
A woman mov'd is like a fountain troubled-
Muddy, ill-seeming, thick, bereft of beauty;
And while it is so, none so dry or thirsty
Will deign to sip or touch one drop of it.
Thy husband is thy lord, thy life, thy keeper,
Thy head, thy sovereign; one that cares for thee,
And for thy maintenance commits his body
To painful labour both by sea and land,
To watch the night in storms, the day in cold,
Whilst thou liest warm at home, secure and safe;
And craves no other tribute at thy hands
But love, fair looks, and true obedience-
Too little payment for so great a debt.
Such duty as the subject owes the prince,
Even such a woman oweth to her husband;
And when she is froward, peevish, sullen, sour,
And not obedient to his honest will,
What is she but a foul contending rebel
And graceless traitor to her loving lord?

I am asham'd that women are so simple
To offer war where they should kneel for peace;
Or seek for rule, supremacy, and sway,
When they are bound to serve, love, and obey.
Why are our bodies soft and weak and smooth,
Unapt to toll and trouble in the world,
But that our soft conditions and our hearts
Should well agree with our external parts?
Come, come, you froward and unable worins!
My mind hath been as big as one of yours,
My heart as great, my reason haply more,
To bandy word for word and frown for frown;
But now I see our lances are but straws,
Our strength as weak, our weakness past compare,
That seeming to be most which we indeed least are.
Then vail your stomachs, for it is no boot,
And place your hands below your husband's foot;
In token of which duty, if he please,
My hand is ready, may it do him ease.