

Hamlet Lead-in

Personal response: Please choose one of the prompts below and write a short (6-8 sentences) response to it. Be sure to let me know if it is OK to share it with the class or to keep it confidential.

1. Imagine that you are a college freshman and have just received a phone call telling you that your father died. How do you feel? To complicate matters, when you arrive home, you learn that your father did not die of natural causes but was murdered. How would your feelings change? What do you think you might do?
2. Imagine that shortly after your father's death your mother remarries. How would you feel? What would you do?
3. Recall a time when you felt betrayed by your parents, your best friend(s) or by your boy or girlfriend. What happened? How did you feel and what did you do?
4. Imagine that your parents are spying on you, or recall a time when your parents read your diary, eavesdropped on one of your phone conversations, emails, or engaged in a similar "spying" tactic. What happened? How would (did) you feel and what would (did) you do? (Personal note: my mom, who was the best of moms, always opened all of my mail—personal and otherwise—to read and make certain she knew what was going on...it goes without saying that she always snooped in all of my drawers in my room. If she were raising teenagers today, I am sure she would insert an RFID chip to track them, read the blogs, follow the tweets, etc.)
5. Imagine that continuing a relationship with your boy or girlfriend whom you love very much, would be seriously damaging to that person. How would you end the relationship? Keep in mind that it is absolutely necessary not to tell that person or anyone else the real reason why this relationship must end.
6. Recall a time when your boy or girlfriend suddenly stopped seeing you, wouldn't answer your calls or letters and wouldn't tell you why. Describe what happened, what you did and how you felt. Basically...you were the dumpee. How bad was this?
7. Recall a time when someone whom you greatly respected asked you to perform a very difficult task—one that you weren't sure you could accomplish. How did you handle the situation?
8. Recall a time you felt depressed because of a deep personal loss of some kind. Describe how you felt: how people seemed, how the world looked, what you did with your days. How did you get through this period of depression? Can you in any way communicate the depths of these feelings?
9. Recall the most difficult decision you have ever made. Describe the circumstances involved, the alternatives from which you had to choose, your final decision and the factor(s) that determined it.