**Critical Essay Revision – Drama and Prose**

**Setting –** Where and when is the story/play set? In what way is this significant?

**Storyline/Plot –** What are the main stages in the development of the actual plot? In particular, which incident is the key turning point for the central characters?

**Characters –** Who is the character? (Name, background, relationships, characteristics)

What does he do? (Consider the consequences of his actions)

Why does he do this?

What is the main change for the central character(s)? In what way is he different as a result of what has happened?

**Themes –** What issue is the writer trying to make us think about?

How does the writer use setting and storyline to present this issue to us?

What other techniques does the writer use to convey his theme (language, incident, imagery, symbolism, structure…)?

**Relationship Between Characters – Othello and Desdemona**

Basic character outline of Othello:

* Strong military leader, appears honourable and brave
* Outsider, black, although trusted by court
* Married to Desdemona
* Somewhat unsure of his worth in Desdemona’s eyes
* Becomes suspicious and jealous of his wife
* Deceived by Iago’s lies and plotting, driven insane by jealousy and love
* Finally murders Desdemona before killing himself

What is the nature of conflict or bond between the character we are studying and the other main characters? Chart such relationships and list appropriate evidence.

Example, Othello and Desdemona:

* Appear to be strongly in love with each other
* Desdemona innocently champions Cassio
* Othello, made jealous by Iago, begins to suspect Desdemona and Cassio
* Desdemona confused but stays true and loyal
* Othello, despite his love, plans Desdemona’s death

Evidence would then be found regarding the themes of true love, jealousy and forgiveness.