

1. Address the following prompt:

The opinions that Rosalind, Viola, and Emilia offer about love above disprove the negativity that Venus and Adonis express about the subject: yes or no?

[For the purpose of the presentation, I'm going to use the quotations from the first exam: "The opinions that Juliet and Helena offer about love disprove the negativity that Venus and Adonis express about the subject: yes or no?"]

proto-thesis: Juliet and Helena don't really validate the opinions that V and A offer. They are strong believers in the powers of love, and in spite of their ages, seem less slanted on the subject, even though they too are in the heat of their feelings and experiences and their words can also seem ironic.

2. Relate your evidence to the other quotations above. Be specific

Which words or phrases from *Venus* are important to read in the context of each selection? Why does your evidence matter? Explain, specifically, how it relates to your argument regarding the prompt.

I hate not love, but your device in love,  
That lends embracements unto every stranger.  
You do it for increase: O strange excuse,  
When reason is the bawd to lust's abuse!  
Call it not love, for Love to heaven is fled, 815  
Since sweating Lust on earth usurp'd his name;  
Under whose simple semblance he hath fed  
Upon fresh beauty, blotting it with blame;  
Which the hot tyrant stains and soon bereaves,  
As caterpillars do the tender leaves. 820  
Love comforteth like sunshine after rain,  
But Lust's effect is tempest after sun;  
Love's gentle spring doth always fresh remain,  
Lust's winter comes ere summer half be done;  
Love surfeits not, Lust like a glutton dies; 825  
Love is all truth, Lust full of forged lies. (VA 811-26)

The strongest body shall it make most weak,  
Strike the wise dumb and teach the fool to speak.  
It shall be sparing and too full of riot,  
Teaching decrepit age to tread the measures; 1170

The staring ruffian shall it keep in quiet,  
Pluck down the rich, enrich the poor with treasures;  
It shall be raging-mad and silly-mild,  
Make the young old, the old become a child.  
It shall suspect where is no cause of fear; 1175  
It shall not fear where it should most mistrust;  
It shall be merciful and too severe,  
And most deceiving when it seems most just  
Perverse it shall be where it shows most toward,  
Put fear to valour, courage to the coward. (VA 1167-80)

Things base and vile, holding no quantity,  
Love can transpose to form and dignity:  
Love looks not with the eyes, but with the mind;  
And therefore is wing'd Cupid painted blind:  
Nor hath Love's mind of any judgement taste;  
Wings and no eyes figure unheedy haste:  
And therefore is Love said to be a child,  
Because in choice he is so oft beguiled.  
As waggish boys in game themselves forswear,  
So the boy Love is perjured every where (MND 1.1.238-47)

Lovers can see to do their amorous rites  
By their own beauties; or, if love be blind,  
It best agrees with night. Come, civil night,  
Thou sober-suited matron, all in black,  
And learn me how to lose a winning match,  
Play'd for a pair of stainless maidenhoods:  
Hood my unmann'd blood, bating in my cheeks,  
With thy black mantle; till strange love, grown bold,  
Think true love acted simple modesty. (Rom. 3.2.8-16)

Again: Which words or phrases from *Venus* are important to read in the context of each selection? Why does your evidence matter? Explain, specifically, how it relates to your argument regarding the prompt.

argument: Juliet and Helena totally put V and A to shame. They are strong believers in the powers of love, seem less slanted on the subject, even though they too are in the heat of their feelings and experiences and their words can also seem ironic

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Love is all truth, Lust full of forged lies. (VA 821-26)

Naïve? childish? valid? stupid? emotionally-charged?

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It shall not fear where it should most mistrust;  
It shall be merciful and too severe,  
And most deceiving when it seems most just (VA 1173-78)

She has the power to make this come to pass, but has it really? Isn't she just describing her own feelings?

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Wings and no eyes figure unheedy haste (MND 1.1.238-43)

also emotionally-charged. equally misinformed. Ironic for her. Just as idealistic as Adonis is ridiculously pessimistic.

### 3. Devote a solid paragraph-page to each quotation

Paragraphs should be focused on a single topic, with topic sentences, evidence, and analysis. **They should not consist of a series of broad, unrelated statements.**

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what is one reason these quotations “prove” that the argument is true?

Juliet and Helena totally put V and A to shame. They are strong believers in the powers of love, seem less slanted on the subject, even though they too are in the heat of their feelings and experiences and their words can also seem ironic

Sample premises that address the argument:

Helena's naïveté is more convincing than Adonis's bitter ignorance.

Though Venus's description of the terrible things about love in part fulfill what Helena experiences, her adventures and the tone of *Dream* suggest that the goddess's predictions are too dire.

Helena's uninformed statement, that love can "transpose" the unworthy to "form and dignity," would apply to Venus and Adonis if they weren't so selfish.

It would be easy to misapply Venus's "raging-mad and silly mild" description of love to the mortal couples in *Dream*, but Helena's soliloquy at the end of Act 1 suggests that the play itself takes a different view.

Argument, premise, evidence

Juliet and Helena totally put V and A to shame. They are strong believers in the powers of love, seem less slanted on the subject, even though they too are in the heat of their feelings and experiences and their words can also seem ironic

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[5. See Writing tab in Menu, especially analytical writing:

What kinds of things could one notice and include in a paragraph as evidence to analyze? This will always be specific to your thesis or main point, obviously, but there are some questions to ask oneself.

a) **Why** have I chosen this quotation?

b) How **little** of it can I get away with quoting?

c) What words or phrases **really** make my point?

d) What is odd or unusual about it to **me**? How can I convey this **peculiarity** to my reader? How can I make it **seem** important, interesting, something that will teach my reader, get him or her to look at the text in a new way?]

It shall be raging-mad and silly-mild<sup>[Dr. s.1]</sup>,  
Make the young old, the old become a child.  
It shall suspect where is no cause of fear<sup>[Dr. s.2]</sup>;  
It shall not fear where it should most mistrust;  
It shall be merciful and too severe,  
And most deceiving when it seems most just<sup>[Dr. s.3]</sup> (VA 1173-78)

Things base and vile, holding no quantity,  
Love can transpose to form and dignity<sup>[Dr. s.4]</sup>;  
Love looks not with the eyes, but with the mind<sup>[Dr. s.5]</sup>;  
And therefore is wing'd Cupid painted blind:  
Nor hath Love's mind of any judgement taste<sup>[Dr. s.6]</sup>;  
Wings and no eyes figure unheedy haste (MND 1.1.238-43)

odd, unusual? peculiar? makes my point?

#### 4. Avoid summary or storytelling: analysis only, please

What each quotation says is fairly clear. So there's no need to rehash or summarize the Shakespeare. Assume we can all read it. Why does it matter? Why is it important? What insight can you bring to the material?

Helena and Juliet are more reliable commentators on love than either Venus or Adonis. Not only their words but their experiences validate them. They are strong believers in the powers of love, seem less slanted on the subject, even though they too are in the heat of their feelings and experiences and their words can also seem ironic. But they don't take themselves too seriously and they don't kill anyone—except in Juliet's case, but only herself.

Because general statements about big subjects such as love are tempting to read as Shakespeare's opinion on such matters, it would be easy to misapply Venus's "raging-mad and silly mild" (VA 1173) description of the emotion to the mortal couples in *Dream*. Yet Helena's soliloquy at the end of Act 1 suggests that the play provides a different view than the poem of such an intimate relationship. Her generalization, "Things base and vile, holding to quantity, / Love can transpose to form and dignity" (MND 1.1.238-39), at first look seems hilariously naïve and would appear to redound ironically against her. She is anything but dignified in her raging fits against Demetrius, Hermia, and Lysander and each of them in their own way completely foolish also. Yet when one considers Venus's behavior in her epyllion, it could be argued that the goddess herself lacks gravitas and decorum, falling on her

back, tackling Adonis and getting him to “mount” her. In contrast, Helena is gentler, expects less than her divine counterpart, does not give up, and only grows in stature after her nightmare in the woods. Furthermore, she is correct in that love indeed “looks not with the eyes, but with the mind,” or should, and this is the way she “views” the man she loves, even though he does not deserve her esteem. Conversely, Venus fails to perceive Adonis emotionally and intellectually, so that her “most deceiving when it seems most just” (VA 1178) works against her rather than describing the allegedly foolish mortals in *Dream*. It could even be said that the immortal female being deceives herself. She does not know her own mind and in some ways, does not know what love is, even though she is the goddess of it. Helena’s milder approach might have suited Venus better.

THIS COULD BE BETTER  
YOU CAN ALWAYS DO MORE  
SEE ANY PLOT SUMMARY?  
WASTING ANY TIME HERE?