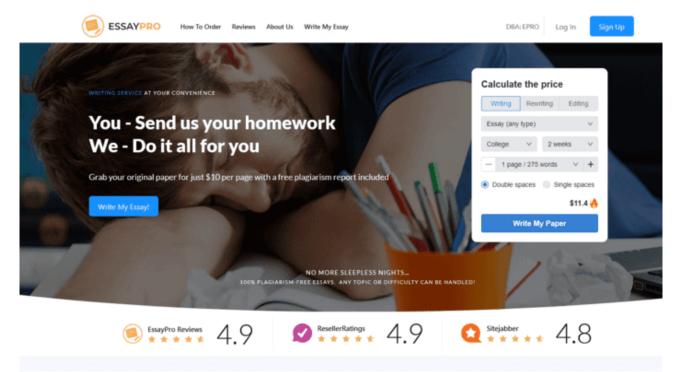
Shakespeare's Othello - The Motivations of lago in Othello



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The Motivations of lago in OthelloHave you ever met a devil who does evil for his own sake? lago in William Shakespeare's Othello could seem like he has good motives, but I feel that he uses them as his excuses. The first thing that I did was uncovered lago's motives. lago is the most controversial character in Othello. He is able to keep his true thoughts and motives from everyone. Are his motives only excuses for his actions? lago pretends to have so many motives that they seem more like excuses. lago then uses these excuses to justify his actions, which are pure evil. I also feel that lago has motives and actions that cause his actions. Does lago have many different excuses, or does he only have one? This paper will prove that lago has one clear motive and reason for his madness. lago is not looking for justification that causes him to act the way he does. There is much more though to lago. He is not a man of only excuses, he has goals with his motives, which causes him to act the way he does. As early as the first scene of the play lago shows us strong motives for his actions. In this first scene we see Othello, a general of Venice, has made Cassio his new lieutant. lago feels he truly deserves his promotion as he says "I know my price, I am worth more no worse a place."(I.i.12) lago over here is confused why Othello has made such a stupid decision. lago is a man with a tremendous

ego who knows, sometimes overestimates, his worth. Roderigo, a Venetian gentleman, understands lago when lago said that he is "affined to love the Moor."(I.i.41-42) What lago really means is "I follow him to serve my term upon him."(I.i.45) lago wants to use Othello for his personal goals. We also must put ourselves into lago's shoes. He is a man whose self-esteem and professional carrier have just been torn apart. lago makes his actions of revenge toward Othello almost immediately by informing Brabantio, a Venetian senator and father of Desdemona, that "an old black ram (Othello) is tupping (his) white ewe (Desdemona)."(I.i.97)lago's next motive becomes clear when he convinces Othello "that he (Cassio) is too familiar with his (Othello's) wife." (1,iii.4399) lago's motive here is to break the bond between Othello and Desdemona.

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