***The Merchant of Venice*: Research Presentation**

**Task:** You must research the texts and stories that historians believe influenced the play, and present information about at least 2 different productions of “The Merchant of Venice”. Compare how sets and costumes were used to create meaning, and what critics said about the performances. Present your work using prezi, power point, or use some other means of displaying your research.

Find information on the following topics:

* **Shakespeare’s influences and original performances** 
  + Where did he get ideas for the story? When was it first published? When and where was it first performed?
* **Examining productions**
  + Research and present information on at least 2 actual productions of “The Merchant of Venice”.
  + Compare how sets and costumes were used to create and add meaning and what critics said about each production. For example, check the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) website or Stratford Festival website to see past productions, and find corresponding reviews on websites for the area’s newspapers. CITE YOUR SOURCES!!!!!!!

Present your findings in a presentation no longer than ten minutes, no less than five minutes. You **must** include:

* some kind of visual aid (power point, poster, illustrations, etc.)
* a clear beginning, middle and end.
* Citations for all of your resources

You must also submit:

1. Written Component **Part 1**:
   1. “Performance Information” :

* The outline of your presentation (you can print several slides to a page)
* All research materials

1. Prepare Written Component **Part 2**:

a. “Context”:

* + - Explain in paragraph form: the most interesting elements of the history of the play. Which productions did you find most interesting? Why? What would you add or change if you were directing the play?

Note: **BE SPECIFIC! Refer to particular characters, lines, events, etc**

b. “Self-Evaluation”:

* + Explain how you personally contributed to the task, what you did well, and what you could improve upon. Evaluate your group’s performance as a whole.

Make sure your information is presented **in your own words**, and **cite** (credit) any sources that you use, either from the internet or other texts in a formal MLA bibliography attached to your presentation outline.

Some websites to check out:

The Royal Shakespeare Company: BBC Bitesize student resources (search “Shakespeare”)

<http://www.rsc.org.uk/> <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/>