

### Activity 4: Annotations

<p><b>Write lines from the soliloquy where Hamlet comments on what it means to be alive.</b>  <b>Minimum five (5)</b></p>	<p><b>Is this line a positive or negative view on life?</b></p>	<p><b>Paraphrase the line (interpret and put into your own words).</b></p>
<p>EXAMPLE:                      “the slings and arrows of outrages fortune,” lines 2-3</p>	<p>negative</p>	<p><i>Hamlet compares being alive to having fate shoot arrows at you.</i></p>


**Thinking Critically**

1. Does the soliloquy form seem to favor the expression of emotion (pathos) or logic (logos)?

Explain why you think so.

Favors emotion-charged language. Hamlet uses metaphors regularly to help the reader picture the emotions (primarily negative ones) that he associates with life.

2. Does Hamlet’s soliloquy use emotion, or pathos, to create a specific effect on the reader? If so, describe how emotion is used.

Hamlet’s use of emotion is rampant. His descriptions of how miserable life is are intended to help the audience feel sympathetic to his plight.

3. Does Hamlet's soliloquy use logic, or logos, to create a specific effect on the reader? If so, describe how the logic is used.

The primary focus of the soliloquy is on describing life's emotional turmoil. However, the soliloquy also uses logic to conclude that if everyone is miserable, they must be scared of dying; otherwise, they would commit suicide and end the pain of living.

4. As careful readers, we are of course aware that it's not really Hamlet speaking, but a character created by William Shakespeare. Does Shakespeare seem like someone whose opinions and attitudes are worth considering? Why?

Shakespeare has a reputation as a master of drama whose plays capture human experience. This gives him authority to speak about such issues. However, Shakespeare has constructed this situation in order to create an engaging drama onstage. It is fictional, so Hamlet's arguments should be considered carefully but not accepted at face value.