Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Mod: \_\_\_\_

**Personal Soliloquy Assignment**

**English III CP — McCook**

**Background:** The most famous speech from Shakespeare’s *Hamlet* is Hamlet’s “To be or not to be” soliloquy in Act 3, Scene 1. Hamlet’s speech asks the question, “Should I live or should I die?” He is contemplating suicide to escape the situation he faces.

**Task:** Your assignment is to write your own soliloquy reflecting on some aspect of life. Your soliloquy can be as equally thoughtful and serious as Hamlet’s, or it can take an entirely different direction such as “to eat or not to eat,” or “to attend or not to attend,” or “to ask or not to ask.” Whether your topic is serious or lighthearted, you are expressing an inner conflict, arguing both sides of an internal debate.

**Guidelines:**

* Use Hamlet’s “To be, or not to be” soliloquy as a model. Have the speech in front of you while you write.

* Start with the same opening, but change the verb: “To \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or not to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_--that is the question.” For example:
  + “To eat or not to eat.”
  + “To attend or not to attend.”
  + “To ask or not to ask.”
* Borrow some of Shakespeare’s phrases that work for you. For example: “Whether ‘tis nobler in the mind to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **or** to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”
* Go back and forth debating each side with **antithesis**: If I do this, then x will happen; if I do that, then y will happen.
* Use imagery, metaphors, and descriptive language. For example:
  + “the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune” (instead of just “really bad luck”)
  + “a sea of troubles” (instead of just “lots of problems”)
  + “to grunt and sweat under a weary life” (instead of just “to struggle”)
* See my example and the student models provided on the class website (kmccook.weebly.com) for more ideas.
* With your permission, I will read submissions anonymously in class for all to enjoy.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Mod: \_\_\_\_

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**English III CP — McCook**

**Grading Criteria:**

**\_\_\_\_\_ Content (5 points):** You have 20-30 lines in which you express an inner conflict, arguing both sides of an internal debate. The entire soliloquy is focused on this one conflict.

**\_\_\_\_\_ Conventions (5 points):**

* + Your soliloquy is written in first-person point of view (using *I, me, my, mine* or *we, us, our*).
  + It is written as a poem with lines (not a paragraph of prose).
  + Your soliloquy contains at least two examples of antithesis.
  + It contains at least one metaphor.

**\_\_\_\_\_ Creativity/Language (5 points):** You use words in a creative, interesting way. You also demonstrate an attempt to use Shakespearean language in at least some parts of the poem.

**\_\_\_\_\_ Grammar/Presentation (5 points):** Your work is typed neatly and printed. You have proofread your work and edited all spelling and grammar errors.

**\_\_\_\_\_ Total (20 points)**