

Name: _____

AP English Literature and Composition
***The Taming of the Shrew* take-home essays**

Directions: On the AP paper provided, **answer each of the following questions** in well-organized essays.

1. George Meredith said, "The true test of comedy is that it shall awaken thoughtful laughter." Choose a scene(s), character(s), recurring idea, or repeated concept from *The Taming of the Shrew* that awakens "thoughtful laughter" in the reader. Write an essay in which you show why this laughter is "thoughtful" and how it contributes to the meaning of the work, especially considering the purpose of comedy.
2. In retrospect, the reader often discovers that the first chapter of a novel or the first scene of a play introduces some of the major themes of the work. Write an essay about the induction of *The Taming of the Shrew* in which you explain how the initial scenes function to set forth a major theme of the play. (Remember that a theme expresses some truth about humanity.)
3. Novels and plays often include scenes of weddings, funerals, parties, and other social occasions. Such scenes may reveal the values of the characters and the society in which they live. Choose such a scene from *The Taming of the Shrew* and, in a focused essay, discuss the contribution the scene makes to the meaning of the work as whole.