

Description: We ask you to synthesize your most compelling thoughts about the science plays we read by exploring the question:

**"What is the social and/or artistic function of a science play?"**

For this essay, we would like you to use at least three of the science plays we have read (Brecht's *Life of Galileo*; Stoppard's *Arcadia*; Djerassi and Hoffman's *Oxygen*; Churchill's *A Number*; Frayn's *Copenhagen*) as the main sources of evidence to support your argument. Other sources of evidence might include articles, films, experiments, graphs, performances, other artworks, or field trips discussed or experienced in the program. Please maximize your close reading of each passage you cite, and limit your use of non-program texts.

You should aim for thesis-driven analysis in the form of synthesis: the process of applying ideas from one text to other texts, or tracing similar themes/methods/forms throughout multiple texts. We strongly recommend that you narrow your focus by addressing one particular aspect of all the plays you discuss. Remember to avoid plot summary--you are writing for a readership (program participants) familiar with the texts. Summarize only when you are doing so with your thesis in mind, leading up to an interpretative claim.

Logistics: Your first, complete version of the essay is due in Writers' Workshop on Wednesday, February 1. Please bring copies of the essay for each member of your triad, plus one for yourself.

Your version of the essay for faculty review is due in lecture on Tuesday, February 6 by 1 pm. Please include: 1) the version of the essay you wrote for Wednesday (include notes/comments from peer reviewers), 2) your latest revision, 3) an author's note

What is an author's note? The author's note tells your reader what you have already worked on in the revision process, and what you would like additional help with. You can also use this opportunity to say what it is that you thought was particularly successful about the essay. Most importantly, it should be a substantive account of your thinking and your writing and **especially** your re-writing process—rather than a superficial description of whether you “liked” the topic or not.

Other specifications:

- Your paper should be roughly 4-6 pages (2500-3000 words) long.
- Your essay must deal directly with at least three of the science play texts we have examined together.
- Your essay must use direct textual evidence to support your claims.
- Use parenthetical citations whenever you are directly quoting a text. For examples of parenthetical citation, refer to Drake.
- When summarizing another author's idea, reference that author in your sentence or provide a parenthetical citation.

Characteristics of successful essays

Strength of voice

- Does the paper have a visible argument or thesis?
- Does the writer clearly express their ideas while distinguishing them from existing intellectual conversations?
- Does the writer actively lead the reader through their evidence, providing a sense of direction in the essay?

Organization

- Does each paragraph clearly communicate a separate idea that supports the overall argument?
- Does the order of the paragraphs make sense?
- Does the writer successfully make transitions in between paragraphs?
- Do the introduction and conclusion successfully lead the reader into and out of the argument?

Use of evidence

- Does the essay use sufficient textual evidence to prove its claims?
- Does the writer clearly introduce and interpret textual evidence?
- Does the writer's interpretation of the evidence demonstrate a solid understanding of the text?
- Is all of the evidence introduced relevant to the argument?

Style

- Is the writer's sentence structure clear?
- Does the writer vary their sentence structure successfully?
- Is the writer's vocabulary appropriate to the academic content?