



## “I AM HAMLET” PROJECT HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE ESSAY CONTEST

The “I Am Hamlet” Project is a community-wide exploration of Shakespeare’s most famous play, leading up to Delaware Shakespeare Festival’s summer 2014 production of *Hamlet*. We aim to ask the question, “**How do you see yourself in *Hamlet*?**” Over 400 years after the play was written, help DSF discover how we each can say, “I am Hamlet!”

### PROMPT

Some scholars argue that *Hamlet* is Shakespeare’s response to the death of his son, Hamnet, and his father. However, this play, that may have been Shakespeare’s expression of grief, continues to speak to us today. What is it about *Hamlet* that still touches our souls?

- Ghosts that haunt us
- Revenge that becomes our obsession
- Love that can never be
- Broken parent/child relationships
- Paralyzing fear that keeps us from making decisions
- Death that waits for us

How do you personally connect to the play *Hamlet*? **Write a 500-word essay drawing a parallel between a specific selection of text from *Hamlet* and a personal connection to your life.**

### DETAILS

- Submit your essay (including name, email, phone number, and school) by **Friday, May 2 to [info@delshakes.org](mailto:info@delshakes.org)**.
- Winning contestants should be available to attend the “I Am Hamlet” Town Hall at Wilmington University on Saturday, May 17 at 2pm.
- Contestants should be currently attending high school or college students.

### PRIZE

- One high school student and one college student will be selected as winners.
- Winning essays will be read by the authors at the “I Am Hamlet” Town Hall on May 17.
- The author of each winning essay will be awarded a **\$250 scholarship**, courtesy of Prestwick House, Inc. – Delaware’s English/Language Arts publishing company.
- Winning essays, and up to two honorable mentions in each category, will be posted on Delaware Shakespeare Festival’s website.



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[www.delshakes.org](http://www.delshakes.org)

