

*Othello*  
Debate Outline

**Shakespeare is not a feminist**

**INTRODUCTION**

- I. Choose the mode of persuasion (ethos, pathos, logos) that you will utilize throughout your argument.

I will utilize logos as my mode of persuasion throughout the argument.

- II. **(Reveal topic/ general statement)** Reveal your topic (If you are the first to go in your group) to your audience along with your mode of persuasion.

A feminist analysis of the play allows us to judge women's different social statuses and values in the Elizabethan community. Space serves as an example to demonstrate the expectation of patriarchal marriages, restriction of femininity, and suppression. According to the Elizabethan community, women were only meant to marry. In this society, unions held massive accountability of childbearing and house management. Society expected women to be obedient, chaste, and silent to their men in general. Such a rule justified women's subordination as the natural order since women were thought to be psychologically and physiologically inferior to men.

- III. **(Thesis + arguments)** State your position (for or against) along with your two arguments.

Shakespeare is a feminist since he believes in the equality of sexes on social, political, and economic matters. Female characters are presented as per the expectation of society. Bianca, Emilia, and Desdemona's conduct and behavior are undoubtedly linked to the patriarchal society and Shakespeare community.

#### IV BODY

I. (POINT 1) Your first main point (proposition) goes here:

Women are viewed as possessions. Following Othello's defense and Brabantio's complaint, the duke grants permission for Desdemona to accompany Othello

**Evidence: (2 pieces of information that prove your first point make sure to include your citation):**

##### 1. Primary Evidence:

“So that dear lords, if I be left behind  
A moth of peace, and he go to war,  
The rites for which i love him are bereft me,  
And i a heavy interim shall support  
By his dear absence. Let me go with him.”

##### 2.Secondary Evidence:

“Yet we have some revenge. Let husbands know  
Their wives have sense like them. They see, and smell,  
And have their palates for both sweet and sour,  
As husbands have. What is it they do  
When they change us for others? Is it sport?  
I think it is. And doth affection breed it?  
I think it doth. Is ’t frailty that thus errs?  
It is so too. And have we not affections,

**Importance (explanation of how it proves your point):**

Othello informs the duke that 'To his conveyance I assign my wife' (I.3.283). Desdemona is treated as material possession since she is to be transported and guarded. Husbands may utilize women the way they wish within the marriage. The marriage is also described as an act of purchase 'Come, my dear love, /The purchase made, the fruits are to ensue (II.3.8-9). a woman is bought by her husband as a favor and is expected to fulfill the marital desires.

II. **(MAIN POINT 2)** Your second main point goes here-it should be one complete sentence.

Women are submissive but powerful.

**Evidence: (2 pieces of information that prove your first point make sure to include your citation):**

**1. Primary Evidence:**

'I am obedient' (III.3.89)

'I will, my lord' (IV.3.9)

'Commend me to my kind lord' (V.2.125)

'Tis proper I obey him, but not now (V.2.195)

**2. Secondary Evidence:**

'Let husbands know,

Their wives have sense like them; they see and smell,

And have their palates both for sweet and sour

As husbands have' (IV.3.92-5)

**Importance (explanation of how it proves your point):**

Shakespeare portrays Desdemona as a submissive woman "I am obedient." She continues to obey her husband for the sake of their relationship through to the latter stages of jealous ravings. Even during her final breath, Desdemona states, 'Commend me to my kind lord' (V.2.125). Desdemona appears to accept her role as an obedient and submissive wife. Emilia also indicates that she is aware of society's expectations. Emilia feels the need to explain why she is deviating from the accepted set of behaviors. Bianca also expresses how Emilia thinks about the community by stating that "I must be circumstanced' (III.4.199) .although she feels compelled by the society's laws, she indicates the lack of choices. In Act IV, Emilia suggests that women are no different from men .in addition, she also shows that she suffers the same affection for the sport. Emilia states that the significant difference is that men are emotionally weaker 'frailty that thus errs' (IV.3.98). she suggests that men are simplistic and brutish, unable to control their thoughts through logical reasoning

V. CONCLUSION

1. **(Summary Statement)** Summarize your main points. Be specific and concise.  
The feminist analysis enables us to highlight the stereotypical images attached to women. Shakespeare's play represents women as talkative and silly, unable to make crucial and independent decisions for themselves. Women are presented as playthings and sex objects. They are also portrayed as emotional creatures unable to make wise decisions that require urgency. Feminist analysis tends to highlight such issues for necessary solutions.

2. **(Memorable Closing Statement)** Leave your audience with something to think about. A memorable close that refers back to your mode of persuasion.  
To promote women's rights and gender equality, we need peace.