

A Note from the Margins: Point of view in *Hamlet* and *Slings & Arrows*

Student Instructions

Activity 2.2 / Shakespeare Learning Commons

1. Introduction

Through the eyes of a secondary character we can gain new insight into an old story. In *Slings & Arrows* there are a number of secondary characters who offer an occasional critique of their director and administration. Using the plot of *Slings & Arrows* and of *Hamlet* (or another Shakespeare play that your class is currently studying), you will explore point of view by asking: How might a story end differently if secondary characters had a greater say?

2. Blank Slate

Use this space to make notes about how Nahum's point of view is different from Oliver's in this scene from *Slings & Arrows*.

3.

Begin by choosing a secondary character from the Shakespeare play you are currently studying in class. Remember that secondary characters aren't always of lower status than the main characters -- you can choose any character whose point of view might offer a fresh perspective or point of view on the action of the play.

Use the Worksheet to conduct a close reading of your character in your chosen scene.

4.

Using the notes you created on the Worksheet, you can now begin drafting your adaptation of your chosen scene. Remember that your goal with this writing assignment is to use your knowledge of a secondary character to explore how the play's events might appear or occur differently from the point of view of a secondary character. Your teacher will provide specific instructions about the requirements for this assignment.

