Paideia Discussion: *Richard III*

A Paideia discussion is a prepared conversation that will teach you how to both agree and disagree with others constructively. If you do not do the preparation, you cannot participate in the discussion and will receive a zero for classwork for the day. Please do the following to prepare:

Answer the seven following questions (including number 10) in a paragraph format with at least one piece of textual evidence per answer:

1. Think about how manipulation appears in the play. Who is manipulative or deceitful? Are there any other characters who act this way? How does that character show their deceit to the audience?
2. Which characters do you trust in the play? Why do you trust them? Why should others trust them? Are they ultimately good or evil characters?
3. Think about the gender roles within the play. Who shows stereotypically masculine traits and how does that affect their life? Who shows stereotypically feminine traits and how does that affect their life? Which gender has more power in this play?
4. Think about the queen’s prophecy at the beginning of the play? How does it affect Richard at all points in the play? How does your interpretation of the prophecy affect your overall interpretation of the play?
5. Who is you favorite Richard that we have seen so far? Why is that actor your favorite Richard? What facial expressions helped you understand that interpretation of the character? Why did you like that interpretation?
6. If you could blame one person other than Richard for the tragic events at the end of the play, who would you blame? Why?
7. If one person did not deserve their fate at the end of the play, who was it? Why was that person innocent? What could have been done to prevent the character’s fate?
8. Name one character that seemed to have little or no significance to the plot. Why did Shakespeare include that character? (Think about Rivers and Grey, other nobleman, etc.)
9. Do the characters in the play really care about each other? Why or why not? Look at one relationship and describe its strengths and weaknesses to back up your response.
10. Write one question about the text for your classmates.