

Following is a layout of the “To Be or Not to Be” soliloquy. In order to rewrite the speech, simply choose an argument, like “to garden or not to garden” or “to rent or not to rent.”

Think about the decisions surrounding your life: where to go to college or to go to college at all, whether to have roommates or live alone, to bring a car to school or sell yours in order to help pay for it, or to stay in Salida or to move elsewhere.

STEP ONE: Write five pressing decisions you must make within the next five years.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Use this list to help you choose an argument.

STEP TWO: Read the following analysis of Hamlet’s argument of living versus suicide. You’ll construct yours in the same way using the given template.

1 To be, or not to be, that is the question—
Whether 'tis Nobler in the mind to suffer
The Slings and Arrows of outrageous Fortune,
Or to take Arms against a Sea of troubles,
And by opposing, end them?

To die, to sleep—
6 No more; and by a sleep, to say we end
The Heart-ache, and the thousand Natural shocks
That Flesh is heir to? 'Tis a consummation
Devoutly to be wished.

To die, to sleep,
10 To sleep, perchance to Dream; Aye, there's the rub,

ARGUMENT INTRODUCTION

Argument is presented. Both sides are described. Side one: **The choice to live.**
Side two: **End one’s life.**

SIDE TWO

Both sides are described; however, the main argument is for suicide since it would make the pain of living go away.

SIDE ONE

The argument of living counters the previous argument by suggesting

For in that sleep of death, what dreams may come,
When we have shuffled off this mortal coil,
Must give us pause. There's the respect
That makes Calamity of so long life:

15 For who would bear the Whips and Scorns of time,
The Oppressor's wrong, the *proud* man's Contumely,
The pangs of *despised* Love, the Law's delay,
The insolence of Office, and the Spurns
That patient merit of the unworthy takes,
20 When he himself might his Quietus make
With a bare Bodkin?

Who would these Fardels bear,
To grunt and sweat under a weary life,
But that the dread of something after death,
The undiscovered Country, from whose bourn
25 No Traveller returns, Puzzles the will,
And makes us rather bear those ills we have,
Than fly to others that we know not of.

Thus Conscience does make Cowards of us all,
And thus the Native hue of Resolution
30 Is sicklied o'er, with the pale cast of Thought,
And enterprises of great *pitch* and moment,
With this regard their Currents turn *awry*,
And lose the name of Action.

**it's not that desirable to end one's life
because of the unknown after death.
Thus, it's better to suffer a long life.**

SIDE TWO

**Again the argument *for* suicide. A litany
of unhappy circumstances and scenarios
is presented. It's argued that these could
all be avoided by stabbing oneself.**

SIDE ONE

**The argument for suicide is countered
again with the inevitable fear of death,
which is described metaphorically then
followed by the argument for suffering
through life versus committing suicide.**

THE ARGUMENT'S CONCLUSION

**Ah ha! Life has won the argument, though
it seems as though the arguer (Hamlet)
would rather suicide had won, which is
suggested and described.
You- however –may be pleased with the
outcome if you like.**

Name

Hamlet's "To Be or Not to Be" Soliloquy Rewrite

Use the given spaces as well as the above hand-out to rewrite Hamlet's soliloquy about suicide using the argument of your choice.

PRESENTATION OF ARGUMENT