

ENGL 444/001 – Spring 2004
Essay 1: Rhetoric in A Mask
Due February 6

Write an essay of 750 words (give or take 10 percent) on one of the following speeches:

The Elder Brother in ll. 418-75
The Attendant in ll. 513-80
Comus in ll. 706-55
The Lady in ll. 756-800

Before writing, define what the speaker is trying to convey and to whom. Consider also how the speaker organizes the argument, and what the speech says about him or her. Check for any special meanings of words, consulting both Shawcross's notes and the Oxford English Dictionary. Listen for prosodic effects, where the rhythms of the speech reinforce, or perhaps go against, the message being spoken. Decide how the speech fits the masque as a whole: what themes or myths or images it develops.

Give your essay a descriptive title that suggests what you find significant in the speech. Document quotations from A Mask, and references to it, parenthetically, and give full citations for any sources you consult outside The Complete Poetry. Use MLA format for all documentation.