Commentary on "Performativity and the Role of King in Henry IV, Part 1"

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While Shakespeare is a well-trodden topic, Saveria offers an insightful perspective on the functionality of a play-within-a-play or "play extempore" in Henry IV, Part 1. She avoids the temptation that some students have to gloss over generalities and offer vague commentary. Rather, she narrows in on a specific aspect of this play and funnels her precise analysis through carefully selected quotes. Her approach to this paper represents the type of writing we not only look for in first-years, but in all students. She does not simply insert quotes and list summary, but rather, she interrogates and analyzes the material. I was also impressed with the breadth and depth of Saveria's research. She thoughtfully uses critical sources to support her argument, but not to articulate it for her. Tackling a Shakespearean play can be a daunting task, but Saveria approaches her topic with poise. She is a reminder for all student writers to focus on specifics and always trust their own thoughts, rather than someone else's.

-Natalie Olivo, Writing Center Consultant