

WS 5: Act 4 Scene 2: Madness or Mental Health?

1. Get together in pairs and **describe** to each other what the poster depicts.

Link to poster: https://www.freepik.com/free-psd/mental-health-matters-poster_20281536.htm#from_view=detail_serie



2. **Analyze** what the poster tells you about how today's societal views on "madness" are different compared to the depiction in Shakespeares' *Twelfth Night*.

Compare the message given by the posters to the depiction of "madness" in *Twelfth Night*. Focus on the following three aspects:

- the **medical treatment** of people that are mentally ill

- the **usage** of the word mental illness and mental health rather than madness

- the **social treatment** of people that are mentally ill

other websites for research:

https://www.who.int/health-topics/mental-health#tab=tab_1

<https://academic.oup.com/brain/article/139/2/635/2568807?login=false>



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Modern audiences might have a problem with the way "madness" is depicted in a comedy like *Twelfth Night* that has been written over 400 years ago.

The question arises:

Should theatre productions change the way "madness" is depicted in this play in order to be more suitable to modern audiences?

For the following analysis pay particular attention to the way Malvolio's "madness" is shown in the play and how this is reflected in his treatment by the other characters.

1. **Assess** possible arguments for and against the question and **organize** them in the table below

Pro	Contra

2. Get together in pairs and **compare** your results by creating a ranking according to the strength of your arguments.

3. **Imagine** that your class is supposed to stage *Twelfth Night*. How would you stage Malvolios "madness" and the way the other characters react to them?

3.1. Get together in pairs and **discuss** different possibilities. Be able to present the ideas to the class.

3.2. **Compare** the different ideas within your class and decide how you would stage Malvolios "madness" and the way the other characters react to them.