

Romeo & Juliet: Argumentative Essay

25% of 4th Quarter Grade

WRITING TOPIC

In the tragedy, *Romeo and Juliet*, two young teenagers fall in love but a feud between their two families makes their relationship nearly impossible. In the end, they take their lives. The blame has to fall on someone. The problem is...whose fault is it?

In a well-written 2-3 page essay, select one of the following characters - Fate, Romeo & Juliet, the Feud, the Nurse, the Priest, the Prince - and prove that they are to blame for the death of the lovers. You must include textual evidence from the play in your explanation.

PAPER FORMAT

- 2-3 pages
- Times New Roman, 12 point font
- Double Spaced
- MLA headers, citations, and works cited page

ARGUMENTATIVE WRITING

An argumentative essay uses reasoning, logic, and evidence - not emotion - to take a definitive stance on an issue. Argumentative writing is about giving the reader one perspective to consider on a debatable topic and proving and proving why that position is the superior choice. A critical part of an argumentative essay is offering several claims for one side while also acknowledging that there are counterclaims from the opposition.

PACING GUIDE

5/4 - Brainstorm & Select Character

5/5 - Work On "Thesis Pitch & Outline" Handout

5/6 - Finish Working on "Thesis Pitch & Outline" Handout

***Thesis Pitch & Outline DUE**

5/9 - Begin Writing First Draft in Computer Lab (Intro & First Body Paragraph)

5/10 - Continue Writing First Draft in Computer Lab (Second & Third Body Paragraph)

5/11 - Finish Writing First Draft in Computer Lab (Conclusion & Print Copies for Peer Review)

***First Draft DUE**

5/12 - Peer Reviews

5/13 - 1:1 Conferences with Mrs. LaFlamme & Begin Second Draft Edits

5/17 - 1:1 Conferences with Mrs. LaFlamme & Continue Second Draft Edits

5/18 - Last Day in Computer Lab to Make Edits

***Final Paper DUE**

ESSAY STRUCTURE

Use this sample outline as a tool to make your writing process easier. Pay close attention to your thesis statement (it should be the main focus throughout your entire essay) and topic sentences in each body paragraph (they should remind the reader of your thesis).

1. Introductory Paragraph
 - a. Hook - Attention grabber that relates in some way to your essay topic.
 - i. Quotation, Fact, Shocking Statement, Compare/Contrast
 - ii. **DO NOT** use a question as your hook
 - b. Transition to essay - title of play, author, and summary.
 - c. Thesis Statement - Your opinion (without saying "In this essay I will prove...")
 - i. Should include the three points in your argument.
 - ii. Example: *"If it were not for Tybalt's relation to Juliet, his tendency toward fighting, and his rebellion against authority, Romeo and Juliet would not have died so tragically."*
2. Body Paragraphs (You should have **THREE** body paragraphs)
 - a. Topic Sentence - Introduces the subject of the paragraph and connects it back to the thesis statement.
 - i. Example: "Tybalt's blood relation to the Capulet's is one of the many factors that significantly influences the fate of Romeo and Juliet."
 - b. Introduce Supporting Evidence
 - i. Using proper MLA citations
 - c. Explain Evidence - This is your analysis!
 - d. Provide Additional Supporting Evidence
 - e. Explain Additional Evidence
 - i. Each body paragraph should have **TWO** pieces of textual evidence
 - f. Transition to Next Paragraph
3. Conclusion
 - a. Restate your thesis - using different wording than in your intro!
 - b. Consider alternative opinions/arguments
 - i. *"Some may argue that..."*
 - c. Explain why your opinion is superior to the other viewpoints
 - i. *"However, it is clear that..."*
 - ii. *"While this may appear to be a valid argument, after examining the evidence, the reader can see that the exact opposite is actually true."*
 - d. End with one final thought or idea

FINAL PAPER DUE: WEDNESDAY, MAY 18th at end of class