

Year 10 English

The Romeo and Juliet Essay

This task is the culmination of our exploration of Shakespeare's play, *Romeo and Juliet*. It provides students with the opportunity to display their knowledge of the text in an essay format.

Develop a response to the following statement:

Explain how Shakespeare explores the idea of "fate" in Romeo and Juliet through his use of language and/or literary devices.

Preparation

- Brainstorm the devices that you know Shakespeare uses to communicate his ideas about 'fate' in Romeo and Juliet.
- Decide which devices you feel most confident explaining.
- Plan your essay content. Ensure you can explain how fate is explored by each of your selected devices. Note down the key quotations you will use in your explanation.
- Consider any social context that is relevant to your idea.
- Plan the structure of your essay:
 - A clear introduction, body and conclusion.
 - Effective paragraphing- if you are beginning to explain a new idea or device, begin a new paragraph.
 - Consider how to best organise your paragraphs. Is there a logical order that they should be organised in?
- Consider the stylistic elements of essay writing:
 - Clear statements that clarify your discussion.
 - Providing appropriate and relevant examples from the text to support and develop your ideas.
 - Giving a clear and specific explanation of your given quotation.

The Final Piece

Size

Your final piece of writing should be no more than 800-900 words in length. This will help you to keep your writing focused.

Conditions

We will be spending **five** in class periods working on this task. You may use any notes you have created during our study of *Romeo and Juliet* while you write and you may ask your teacher for feedback during the task.

Scope

Your proficiency with spelling, grammar and punctuation will aid the clear and effective communication of your argument, as will conforming to a clear structure with your writing.

Advice

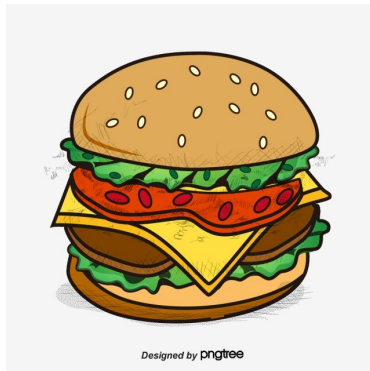
You are advised to refer to any material you have been exposed to or created during our study of *Romeo and Juliet*.

You are also advised to seek feedback in the early stages of your writing to ensure you are on the right track.

Structure Reminders

We have focused on how to structure an essay over the past week. Remember to come back to your notes on this if you need to.

Overall Structure



Your essay is like a burger. It has a top bun (the introduction), fillings in the middle (the main body paragraphs) and a bottom bun (the conclusion).

We often enjoy a burger because of the fillings in the middle but without the buns, the burger can fall apart and become a bit messy. It's also not a real representation of a burger!

Paragraph Structure

We used a controversial topic to help highlight how you should apply the SEXY structure to your paragraphs. Revisit the class paragraph and your own example to remind you of each element in addition to the explanation below.

Statement: this is the sentence that people will use to quickly locate a paragraph. It should very clearly inform your reader about the overall idea that will be discussed in the paragraph.

Explanation: once you have stated what your paragraph is about, you need to add some context to it. You need to expand your statement. Ask yourself "why did I make that statement?" to kick start your explanation.

eXample: what evidence is there that your statement is accurate? This is where you will use quotations to justify your statement. You will need to explain HOW your selected quotation supports the point you're making.

Y-der ideas: This is your big picture moment. What other relevant information do you need to discuss? This might include discussing the relevant social or historical context. You should always discuss how this information enhances our understanding of the text and the author's purpose.