Romeo and Juliet Writing Assignment:

Each of you has been following one of the following themes throughout our reading of Romeo and Juliet:

* Love & Destruction
* Fate vs. Free Will
* Individual vs. Society
* Revenge & Violence
* Family Feuds

Step 1

Write your theme here:

*Example: Religion*

Step 2

Put an attitude to it and make it into a statement. What is religion doing in the play? How does it affect the characters? What is Shakespeare saying about religion?

*Example: Religion watches over and guides everyone.*

Write your attitude statement here:

Step 3

Turn your attitude statement into a more formal thesis statement. Try to go deeper and make a claim about how the play backs up your attitude statement. Include any relevant details. Your thesis should begin with the author and the title of the play.

*Example: In Shakespeare’s* Romeo and Juliet*, religion is a force that guides and watches over every character, but in the end, it is powerless to stop the deaths of the lovers.*

Write your thesis statement here:

Step 4

Find **three examples from the play WITH SUPPORTING QUOTES** that back up your thesis statement. You can focus on a character, a specific moment or scene, or a specific image or symbol to explain your quotes. Remember, all quotes must be correctly cited!

**You have been using your theme graphic organizers to keep track of your theme: USE IT!**

*Examples:* ***Quote:*** *“Thy fault our law calls death; but the kind Prince, taking thy part, hath rushed aside the law, and turned that black word death into banishment. This is dear mercy, and thou seest it not.” (3.3.28-31)\**

*Friar Lawrence is the voice of reason, trying to help Romeo and Juliet stay calm and not panic, but they don’t listen to him.*

***Character:*** *Friar Lawrence helps Romeo and Juliet, and comes up with the plan to help them be together, but his plan goes badly and they kill themselves. “In one respect I’ll thy assistant be; for this alliance may so happy prove to turn your households’ rancor to pure love” (2.3.99-100).*

***Moment or Scene:*** *In Act 5, Scene 1, Friar Lawrence tries to convince Juliet to come with him, but rather than forcing her to come with him, he leaves her in the tomb where she commits suicide. “Come, go, good Juliet, I dare no longer stay”(5.3.172)*

***Image or Symbol:*** *Friar Lawrence knows a lot about plants, which can be used both as medicine and as poison, depending on how they are used. His potion for Juliet causes Romeo to kill himself. “For naught so vile that on the earth doth live but to the earth some special good doth give” (2.3.18-9).*

Supporting examples/quotes:

(Make sure you include a brief description of how your example relates to your thesis.)



\*For quotations: When quoting directly from the text, in parentheses next to the quote you should include the act, scene and line(s) that the quote is from. For example, “A plague o’ both your houses!” (3.1.95) is a quote from Act 3, Scene 1, line 95.

Writing Guide

As you organize your essay, remember that you **must include an introduction, at least three body paragraphs, and a conclusion.**

Your introduction should:

* Introduce your theme and the attitude you have taken towards it. Make it sound as interesting as possible. Hook your reader in using a quote, an example, or an anecdote. You want your reader to want to read your essay. **Your thesis statement should be the last sentence of your introductory paragraph.**

Your body paragraphs should include:

* A topic sentence- you have to tell us what you are going to be writing about in the paragraph. Make sure it relates to your theme and one of your quotes.
* Your quote **AND** specific example from the text—**one per paragraph**.
* An extended illustration or explanation that describes exactly how your specific example relates to, supports, defines, or challenges your thesis. **This should be the bulk of the paragraph.**
* Concluding sentence that ends thought or idea.

Your conclusion should:

* Redefine or reinforce your thesis statement.
* Connect your thesis to the real world, make some kind of modern day association.
* Remind us of why this theme is relevant or important. Your theme has been written about for as long as people have been writing—why is it important? What does it tell us about human nature?

**Essay Checklist**

1st paragraph hooks your reader, introduces your topic and ends in your thesis statement

Each body paragraph has a topic sentence and a concluding sentence

Each body paragraph includes a quote, and discusses only **one** of your specific examples

Your body paragraphs are mostly made up of the description and explanation of your quote and specific example and how they relate to your thesis statement.

Concluding paragraph that connects to a modern day or real-world example

Conclusion reminds reader of why your theme is important and lasting

Your complete rough draft is due on so that we can peer edit.

Final Drafts will be due:

Name: Title: Theme:

**Romeo and Juliet Essay Scoring Sheet**

*Check that you have done everything on this sheet, fill out of the top part with your name, the title of your essay, your original selected theme and attach to the front of your final draft.*

**Introduction**

Includes an interesting “hook” (quote, scenario, example, anecdote, etc.) (4)

Clearly introduces theme (4)

Last sentence includes clearly stated thesis statement (2)

/10

**Body paragraphs (3)**

Begins with a clear topic sentence introducing the main idea of the paragraph. (2)

Includes examples from text that are clearly related to the thesis. (3)

Examples are supported by at least one direct quote from the text with correct citation. (4)

Examples and quotes are clearly explained and described by student thinking within the paragraph. (5)

Ideas flow smoothly from one to the other. (4)

Ends with strong concluding sentence/transition (2)

/20

x 3 =

**Conclusion**

Briefly sums up main idea (4)

Directly relates to thesis statement. (4)

Includes real-world or modern-day example (4)

Answers the question: Why is this theme relevant and important? (4)

/20

**Conventions**

Essay includes a title. (2)

Spelling and grammar are mostly correct, essay is clearly typed/written in ink and easy to read. (8)

/10 **Total /100**