

Name: _____ Block: _____

Date: _____

Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare

Looking Back at the Play: Who's to blame? Essay

Prompt: William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* tells the story of two young lovers, from two feuding families, who die tragically. At the end of the play, Prince Escalus declares, "Some shall be pardoned, and some punished. / For never was a story of more woe / Than this of Juliet and her Romeo." Consider this statement and the question it implies: Who is to blame for the deaths of Romeo and Juliet?

Task: In a 5-paragraph essay, explain who – in your opinion* -- is to blame for the deaths of Romeo and Juliet.

Paragraph #1, The Introduction

_____ / 20 pts.

- (1 point) Hook (do not use personal pronouns if you ask a question)
- (3 points) Provide some context for your reader (a brief plot summary is fine).
- (2 points) Restate (as a sentence) the question/Define any key terms
- (14 points) State the purpose of your essay (thesis statement). (**Do not say, "In this essay..."!**)

Paragraphs #2-#4, Body

_____ / 60 pts.

- (2 points) Start each body paragraph with a sub-claim that ties to your thesis.
- (2 points) Provide a first reason that supports this claim.
 - (3 points) Quote 1 (punctuated correctly) + (1 point) parenthetical citation
 - (3 points) Analysis (says/means/matters)
- (2 points) Provide a second reason that supports this claim.
 - (3 points) Quote 2 (punctuated correctly) + (1 point) parenthetical citation
 - (3 points) Analysis (says/means/matters)
- Conclude each paragraph (sum up your ideas) and transition to the next (except for body paragraph 4, which will be your final body paragraph).

Body Paragraph Notes:

- Depending on your thesis, your body paragraphs will either be an example of ONE character (for a total of 3 characters discussed in your essay) that is to blame, OR one REASON that ONE character is to blame.
- Save your strongest character/reason for the final body paragraph (paragraph 4).

Paragraph #5, The Conclusion

_____ / 10 pts.

- (8 points) Restate the thesis and sum up the points made in the essay.
- (2 points) Provide your reader with a final thought about "blame" and *Romeo and Juliet*.

Big Picture Organization

_____ / 10 pts.

- (4 points) Intro, Body, and Conclusion
- (2 points) Paragraphs address one analytical category
- (2 points) Paragraph sequence logical, consistent with thesis
- (2 points) Transitions between and among paragraphs (**Do not say "In the next paragraph..." or any variation of this phrase!**)

_____ / 100 points total

GENERAL REMINDERS

1. *NO PERSONAL PRONOUNS!
2. **Remember: Assume that your reader is familiar with the stories. Do not retell the stories in your essay!**
3. Be sure to type your essay using MLA formatting. Essays not typed will automatically lose 10 points. Essays with elements of incorrect formatting will lose 2 points for each element, up to 10 points total.