

Literary Analysis of Romeo and Juliet

Assignment: After reading *Romeo and Juliet* and taking notes on symbols and keeping notes on characters, write a literary analysis paper explaining how and why Shakespeare did what he did when he created the play. You have three choices. Honors must choose symbol paper.

- **Character analysis:** Examine one or more characters, focusing on why Shakespeare created this character and why he used the character in the way he did. Use examples from the text to back up your ideas.
- **Persuasive:** Persuade the reader about who is responsible for the deaths of Romeo and Juliet. Use examples from the text to back up your ideas.
- **Symbol paper:** Examine the symbols in *Romeo and Juliet* and tell how Shakespeare used these symbols to craft his classic romantic tragedy. Use examples from the text to back up your ideas.

Follow the ***stages of the writing process*** and get to your best draft. Make sure you read aloud and have someone else read aloud before you submit.

Prewrite:

Using your notes, your character chart, and your knowledge of the play, craft an outline with a thesis and topic sentences BEFORE you begin writing.

Write: Use expository essay format

1. **Introduction**-set your reader up for what is to come
 - a. In the first sentence, mention the title of the book (underline it) and the author and make a general statement about the book.
 - b. General to specific information about the book. Make sure to use transition words and phrases.
 - c. Thesis statement (at the end of introduction) This is the statement that says, in one sentence or so, why you are writing this. What do you want us to understand? Only mention your reasons briefly here. You will explain in the body paragraphs.
2. **Body** (Use a body paragraph for each point you discuss. You will have 2 body paragraphs.) Follow this paragraph structure in order to explain your point of view, and also to give specific examples. Your paragraphs should be 4-6 sentences long.
 - a. Topic Sentence
 - b. Explain
 - c. Give an example
 - d. Passage
 - e. Explain
 - f. Give an example
 - g. Passage
 - h. Closing Sentence
3. **Conclusion**
 - a. Restate your thesis in a slightly different way and mention your main points again.
 - b. Your opinion of the play and/or the author
 - c. Close the essay

Rewrite: Use the checklist to before you ask for us to check your paper

Check the following before you have us check your final draft:

- Review your writing scoring guide information and your assignment sheet to make sure you have included everything you need to include
- Use present tense when writing about literature
- No second person (you)
- No random capitalization but capitalize proper nouns
- Run spell check and have someone else read to check for spelling errors
- Use few pronouns and when you do, make sure the antecedent (the noun the pronoun is taking the place of) is clear
- The points must be written about in the same order in the body of the paper as in your thesis statement.
- Make sure you don't start any sentences with coordinating conjunctions-FAN BOYS
- Make sure to check your comma info. Do not make errors using compound sentences and coordinating conjunctions (see info sheet)
- Have a peer or parent read your paper to make sure you don't have any homonym or homophone errors