Romeo & Juliet Persuasive Essay

**Purpose:** In persuasive writing, a writer takes a position FOR or AGAINST an issue and writes to convince the reader to believe it or do something.

**WHERE TO BEGIN…**

**Step 1:** Choose a prompt!

1. The term "star-crossed lovers" implies that what happens in the play is the result of fate, rather than the free will of the characters. Do you believe this is true, or is what happens clearly a result of choices made by the characters?
2. Who is responsible for the tragedy of *Romeo and Juliet*? Friar Laurence? The two lovers themselves? Their parents? Do a number of people share the blame? To what extent can these people be held responsible for the deaths of Romeo and Juliet?
3. Do you think that Romeo and Juliet truly loved each other or were they merely infatuated with one another and acting irrationally? Focus on their actions throughout the play and make certain you have a clear understanding, in your own words, of the definitions for love and infatuation.

**Step 2:** Develop a strong thesis sentence!

**Step 3:** Fill out the persuasive essay prompt outline.

**Step 4:** Write your paper. Bring drafts (even if it is only a little at a time). Ms. Berti will read as many as you bring in! Also, do not allow for any spelling, grammar, or MLA format issues as points will be deducted (See rubric).

**Step 5:** Turn it in to turnitin.com! **Class ID:** 12221049 **Password:** Berti2

**\*\*\*On the due date, you will bring in a PRINTED copy of your paper. By midnight, on the due date, you must ALSO submit it to turnitin.com. Every day, that it in late on turnitin.com you will receive 10% off your essay.\*\*\***

**BIG WARNINGS…**

* Computer and/or printer issues are *not* my problem. Plan ahead. Do not come to me to ask if you can go print out a paper. Papers are due at the beginning of the period. If you are concerned about your home computer/printer, finish early so you have a few days to problem-solve.
* The grading rubric *must* be attached to your paper. **No rubric, no grade.** I don’t make extra copies.
* Papers are due on the due date regardless of an absence. Absolutely **NO** late papers will be accepted under any condition. If you are ill, find someone reliable to deliver the paper to the school and have it stamped with the date and time in the main office.
* NOT writing you own paper is not an option. Plagiarism is considered using someone else’s words or ideas, whether directly or indirectly, without giving the individual credit through proper citation. Plagiarism on any part of this paper (no matter how big or small) will result in 0/120 points (which would likely contribute to an F in the course) and a school referral. You will be required to submit your paper through turnitin.com *prior* to turning in a paper copy on the due date. I do not take this lightly and neither should you. DO YOUR OWN WORK!!!

***Romeo & Juliet* Persuasive Essay Template**

**Introduction**

Your opening sentences must include:

* an attention-grabbing opener that relates to the thesis
* the title of the play underlined (*italicized* when typed)
* the author

Next, include:

* a brief summary of the play (no more than two sentences) and
* an introduction to the time, setting, and plot of the play
* an introduction of essay prompt

Now, introduce your thesis:

* Remember that your thesis is your main point. This is what you are going to prove in your essay.
* Your thesis must be stated in one sentence.

**Body Paragraphs (x3)**

Each of your ***three*** supporting body paragraphs must include:

1. Topic Sentence (TS) = a topic of the paragraph + opinion/statement that proves thesis correct
2. Lead-In (LI)= Introduces the quote such as background information of where it took place in the play and the importance of it
3. Supporting Details (SD)= evidence in the form of short scene summaries, quotes or paraphrasing of quotes from the scenes

MLA format for citing quotes from the play is (Act. Scene. Lines)

* + - For example the line from Act 5, scene 3 and line 180 would be:

“Thy lips are warm” (V. iii. 180).

1. Commentary (CM)= commentary on each piece of evidence (Discuss the quote or paraphrased idea.)
   * Explain the “so what”, why is the SD important? What are the results?
   * For CM #2 make sure to keep “digging” for the deeper meaning/ lesson
2. Concluding Sentence (CS)= a closing sentence that connects back to the topic sentence and/or the thesis
   * Explain the overall thought/ message/ challenge, etc. DO NOT REPEAT or SUMMARIZE!

**Conclusion**

Your conclusion should:

* restate the thesis, but with different words
* briefly review the supporting points from the body paragraphs
* say something meaningful and thought-provoking, showing that you learned something new in writing this essay