

Name: _____

Class Period: 6th

Persuasive Essay Prompts for Romeo and Juliet Choose one of the following writing prompts from which you will choose a side and defend your opinion with support from the text:

1. The penalty of death goes unused throughout the play. Not until the suicides of the final act does the feud end. Is the threat of death a good deterrent in preventing acts of violence? Support your answer with the text
2. The main characters of the play are Romeo and Juliet. Which character changes the most and how does that affect the outcome of the play? Support your answer with the text.
3. Of the following list: Romeo, Juliet, Tybalt, Mercutio, Friar Laurence, or the Nurse, who is the most memorable character of the play? Support your answer with the text.
4. Which gender (male or female) makes a more dramatic impact on the audience and why? Support your answer with the text.
5. The prince decrees at the end of the play that some people will be pardoned and others will be punished. Who is at fault for the deaths of Romeo and Juliet? Choose the character that you think is most responsible for the deaths of these lovers. Support your answer with the text.
6. Who would be considered the best "role model" in the play and why? Support your answer with the text.
7. What is the most important literary device in the play and why? (Dramatic irony? Foreshadowing? Figurative language-similes, puns, metaphors, etc. or staging?) Support your answer with the text.
8. Many people question how "true" Romeo's love for Juliet really is because of his infatuation with Rosaline at the start of the play. Do you think Romeo truly loves Juliet? Why or why not? Use examples from the play to support your answer.
9. Some believe Romeo and Juliet is more of a romance than a tragedy. Persuade your audience on whether you believe the play is more of a romantic story or a tragic story. Use examples from the play to support your answer.

Introduction: Topic: _____

Hook: _____

(attention grabber)

Tie your hook to your topic:

(In your written essay, give a brief summary of relevant parts of the play here)

REMEMBER: A thesis is a sentence explaining what you will be proving in your paper. Thesis: Write a tentative thesis statement for the prompt of your choice.

Body Paragraph 1: What is the first example you are going to include to prove your thesis?

What quote are you going to use to prove your idea/example? (Act ____, Scene ____, Line ____)

How does this quote prove your thesis?

Transition:

Body Paragraph 2: What is the second example you are going to include to prove your thesis?

What quote are you going to use to prove your idea/example? (Act ____, Scene ____, Line ____)

How does this quote prove your thesis?

Transition:

Body Paragraph 3: What is the third example you are going to include to prove your thesis?

What quote are you going to use to prove your idea/example? (Act ____, Scene ____, Line ____)

How does this quote prove your thesis?

Transition:

Conclusion: Restate (reword) your thesis:

Summarize (reword) main ideas of your paper:

What lingering idea do you want your reader to keep thinking about once they have finished reading your paper? Your paper should end with an idea that connects to the real world – something beyond simply Romeo and Juliet.

Once you have finished your prewriting, you are ready to begin your essay. It'll be easy! Simply turn each box into a paragraph. Remember, each body paragraph needs to include at least one quote from the play!

For quotations, follow these guidelines:

"It is the East and Juliet is the sun," (Act II, Scene II, Line 3).

1. Any words directly from the text should be in quotation marks.
2. There must be a comma after the quote, inside the quotation marks.
3. Act, Scene and Line information should follow in parentheses.
4. The period should follow the closed parentheses.

- Counterclaim Paragraph goes between the last body paragraph and the conclusion