**ROMEO AND JULIET Name:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Analytical Essay Format**

**The major assessment you will be expected to complete for *Romeo and Juliet* is an analytical essay in response to an excerpt from the play. This essay will be completed as in-class demand piece. It will require you to discuss how TWO separate story elements/devices help to develop an overall THIRD element/ device*.* The guide below provides step-by-step instructions for how this essay should be organized and what information should be included for full marks.**

**INTRODUCTION:**

* Provide a general OPENING STATEMENT to engage your reader.
* Provide a THESIS STATEMENT to communicate the purpose of this essay.
* Reference your SUPPORTS\*.

**\*These references may or may not be part of your thesis statement.**

**BODY PARAGRAPH ONE:**

* Provide a TOPIC SENTENCE stating that the FIRST element/device helps to develop the THIRD element/device.
* Provide an EXAMPLE from the novel that demonstrates use of this FIRST element/device (remember to provide any necessary contextual details!).
* EXPLAIN how this example demonstrates use of this FIRST element/device.
* EXPLAIN how the example of this FIRST element/device develops the THIRD element/device.
* Re-state your TOPIC SENTENCE (clincher sentence).

**BODY PARAGRAPH TWO:**

* Provide a TOPIC SENTENCE stating that the SECOND element/device helps to develop the THIRD element/device.
* Provide an EXAMPLE from the novel that demonstrates use of this SECOND element/device (remember to provide any necessary contextual details!).
* EXPLAIN how this example demonstrates use of this SECOND element/device.
* EXPLAIN how the example of this SECOND element/device develops the THIRD element/device.
* Re-state your TOPIC SENTENCE (clincher sentence).

**CONCLUSION:**

* Provide a general OPENING STATEMENT to engage your reader.
* Re-state your SUPPORTS\*

**\*These references may or may not be part of your thesis statement.**

* Re-state your THESIS STATEMENT.

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**Analytical Essay Content**

Your analytical essay will require you to discuss how TWO story elements or devices help to develop a THIRD overall story element or device. This will not be in relation to the entire play, but rather to an excerpt taken from it.

Normally, the elements or devices could be any of the following:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * *Setting* * *Character (Major / Minor)* * *Conflict (Internal / External)* | * *Irony (Verbal / Situational / Dramatic)* * *Foreshadowing* * *Theme* |

For the purpose of this particular essay, however, the third, overall element or device will be THEME. The thematic statement will be provided to you. This means you would be expected to explain how two other elements help to develop this theme throughout the play. The other two elements will be prescribed to you.

**SAMPLE ANALYTICAL ESSAY PROMPT:**

*One of the most dominant themes in William Shakespeare’s* Romeo and Juliet *is the idea that love is a violent and overpowering force. Using* ***character*** *and* ***external conflict****, show how this theme is developed through the excerpt below. You may briefly discuss events leading up to this point in the play but the majority of your essay must be based on the given passage. You MUST use at least two direct quotes from the passage, one for each literary element discussed.*

**OUTLINE OF SAMPLE RESPONSE:**

**INTRODUCTION:**

* **Opening Statement:** *“There are numerous themes developed throughout the play* Romeo and Juliet *by William Shakespeare.”*
* **Thesis Statement:** *“One of the most pervasive themes is the idea that love is a violent and overpowering force.”*
* **Supports:** *“This theme is developed through the character of [character name], as well as through the external conflict that exists between [list forces conflict exists between].”*

**BODY PARAGRAPH ONE: Character**

* **Topic Sentence:** *“First of all, the actions of [character name] help to reveal the theme.”*
* **Context/Example:** *“This can be seen when [context]. In the excerpt, it says, ‘[direct quote].’”*
* **Explanation of FIRST Element/Device:** *“This reveals that the main character is* *[describe what example reveals about character].”*
* **Explanation of how FIRST element/device develops the THIRD element/device:** *“This actions of this character help to develop the idea that love is a violent and overpowering force. This can be seen when [explain how actions of character reveal theme].”*
* **Clincher Sentence:** *“Clearly, the actions of* *[character name] help to develop a central theme in the play.”*

**BODY PARAGRAPH TWO: Conflict**

* **Topic Sentence:** *“Secondly, the external conflict between [list forces conflict exists between] also helps to reveal the theme.”*
* **Context/Example:** *“This can be seen when [context]. In the text, it says, ‘[direct quote].’”*
* **Explanation of SECOND element/device:** *“This is clearly an example of external conflict because [explain how example indicates external conflict].”*
* **Explanation of how SECOND element/device develops the THIRD element/device: *“****This example of external conflict also helps to develop the idea that love is a violent and overpowering force. This can be seen when [explain how external conflict reveals theme].”*
* **Clincher Sentence:** *“Clearly, the external conflict between [list forces conflict exists between] helps to develop a central theme in the play.”*

**CONCLUSION:**

* **Opening Statement:** *“Many pieces of literature, like* Romeo and Juliet*, tend communicate more than one overall theme.”*
* **Supports:** *“In this play, the character [character name], as well as the external conflict that exists between [list forces conflict exists between], both suggest that the actions people take in life are often determined by the love they feel for another person.*”
* **Thesis Statement:** *“As such, it is clear that a central theme developed throughout* Romeo and Juliet *by William Shakespeare is the idea that love is both a violent and overpowering force.”*