

**RESPONSE TO LITERATURE ESSAY**  
***ROMEO AND JULIET***

Choose one of the following prompts to write an expository essay on William Shakespeare’s play *Romeo and Juliet*. The essay must include a thesis statement within the introduction paragraph, two body paragraphs (each with two concrete details), and a conclusion. The essay must follow MLA format. Final draft must be submitted with the rubric and all pieces from the writing process.

1. Shakespeare often surrounds the lovers with imagery of light and dark. Trace and analyze the light and dark imagery throughout the play. What is the overall purpose and effect of this imagery?
  
2. The outcome of *Romeo and Juliet* occurs as a result of the decisions that different characters make. These characters are motivated by a various types of love: unrequited, romantic, filial, friendship and family honor. Choose and analyze the form of love that you believe propels the plot in the most significant manner.
  
3. Some literary critics argue that Romeo's fatal flaw (mistake that leads to death) is his rash, impulsive, and hasty behavior. Find instances in which Romeo acts before he thinks, and explain how those actions contribute to the tragedy (the deaths at the end of the play).

**Part 1: Breaking down the prompt**

**Directions:** To write an effective essay, it is essential to have a clear understanding of what the prompt asks you to do. Complete the following three steps and use them as a guide toward effectively answering the prompt.

Step One – Select the prompt. Write the prompt’s number here: \_\_\_\_\_

Step Two – What does the prompt tell you to do? If anything, write it here: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Step Three – Does the prompt ask questions? If so, write the question(s) here: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Step Four – Complete the task(s) you identified in step two.

Step Five – Answer the question(s) you identified in step three.