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Romeo and Juliet

**FINAL ESSAY – PLANNING GUIDE**

**Topic:** Fate is seen by many of the characters in William Shakespeare’s *Romeo*

*and Juliet* as the reason for Romeo and Juliet's downfall.

**Thesis:** In truth, however, it is the character flaws and actions of **CHARACTER ONE**, **CHARACTER TWO**, and **CHARACTER THREE** that truly lead to their deaths.

**MODEL: BODY PARAGRAPH ONE**

**Character One:** Tybalt

**Flaw:** too violent and unforgiving

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Quote that proves this flaw:** | **Act, Scene, Line # - Page #** |
| “What, drawn and talk of peace! I hate the word as I hate hell, all Montagues, & thee.” | Act 1, Scene 1, Line 185  – Page 12 |
| **Explain the quote: (how does it prove the flaw?)**  [His/her words… show that, reveal that, prove that, illustrate that…]  Tybalt’s words prove that he is violent and unforgiving because he says he hates peace. Clearly, he is so full of rage that it is impossible to reason with him. | |

**Action (or lack of action) resulting from this flaw:**

[…causes him to…/ ...leads her to…]

Later in the play, Tybalt’s violent hatefulness causes him to challenge Romeo and his friend Mercutio to a fight, even though Romeo tries to tell him that he does not want to fight.

**Explain how this action contributes to Romeo & Juliet’s tragic end:**

[This leads to…/ This causes…/ As a result…]

Tybalt’s actions lead to a fight in which both he and Mercutio are killed. As a result, Romeo is banished, which is what separates him from Juliet and causes them both to resort to desperate measures.

**BODY PARAGRAPH ONE**

**Character One:**

**Flaw:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Quote that proves this flaw:** | **Act, Scene, Line # - Page #** |
|  |  |
| **Explain the quote: (how does it prove the flaw?)**  [His/her words… show that, reveal that, prove that, illustrate that… because…] | |

**Action (or lack of action) resulting from this flaw:**

[…causes him to…/ ...leads her to…]

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**Explain how this action contributes to Romeo & Juliet’s tragic end:**

[This leads to…/ This causes…/ As a result…]

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**BODY PARAGRAPH TWO**

**Character Two:**

**Flaw:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Quote that proves this flaw:** | **Act, Scene, Line # - Page #** |
|  |  |
| **Explain the quote: (how does it prove the flaw?)**  [His/her words… show that, reveal that, prove that, illustrate that… because…] | |

**Action (or lack of action) resulting from this flaw:**

[…causes him to…/ ...leads her to…]

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**Explain how this action contributes to Romeo & Juliet’s tragic end:**

[This leads to…/ This causes…/ As a result…]

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**BODY PARAGRAPH THREE**

**Character Three:**

**Flaw:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Quote that proves this flaw:** | **Act, Scene, Line # - Page #** |
|  |  |
| **Explain the quote: (how does it prove the flaw?)**  [His/her words… show that, reveal that, prove that, illustrate that… because…] | |

**Action (or lack of action) resulting from this flaw:**

[…causes him to…/ ...leads her to…]

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**Explain how this action contributes to Romeo & Juliet’s tragic end:**

[This leads to…/ This causes…/ As a result…]

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Romeo and Juliet

**FINAL ESSAY – Body Paragraphs**

**Topic:** Fate is seen by many of the characters in William Shakespeare’s *Romeo*

*and Juliet* as the reason for Romeo and Juliet's downfall.

**My Thesis:** In truth, however, it is the character flaws and actions of **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,** **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,** and **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,**  that truly lead to their deaths.

**MODEL BODY PARAGRAPH ONE**

1. **Topic Sentence: Identify Character and Flaw**

One character who contributes to the tragedy is Tybalt, because he is too violent and unforgiving.

character flaw

1. **Embedded Quote:**

**Context and Location + Speaker + Quote + Parenthetical Citation of Page #**

In an argument on the street with the rival Montagues, Tybalt yells, “What, drawn and talk of peace! I

context + location speaker quote

hate the word as I hate hell, all Montagues, & thee” (12).

parenthetical citation of page #

1. **You are almost done! On loose leaf, begin your body paragraph with the topic sentence and embedded quotation you just wrote. Then, copy the bottom three sections from your planning guide. (If you used complete sentences there, then you should be done!)**

**MODEL - COMPLETED MODEL PARAGRAPH:**

One character who contributes to the tragedy is Tybalt, because he is too violent and unforgiving. In an argument on the street with the rival Montagues, Tybalt yells, “What, drawn and talk of peace! I hate the word as I hate hell, all Montagues, & thee” (12). Tybalt’s words prove that he is violent and hateful because he says he hates peace. Clearly, he is so full of rage that it is impossible to reason with him. Later in the play, Tybalt’s violent hatefulness causes him to challenge Romeo and his friend Mercutio to a fight, even though Romeo tries to tell him that he does not want to fight. Tybalt’s actions lead to a fight in which both he and Mercutio are killed. As a result, Romeo is banished, which is what separates him from Juliet and causes them both to resort to desperate measures.

**BODY PARAGRAPH ONE**

1. **Topic Sentence: Identify Character and Flaw**

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1. **Embedded Quote:**

**Context and Location + Speaker + Quote + Parenthetical Citation of Page #**

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1. **You are almost done! On loose leaf, begin body paragraph 2 with the topic sentence and embedded quotation you just wrote. Then, copy the bottom three sections from your planning guide. (If you used complete sentences there, then you should be done!)**

**BODY PARAGRAPH TWO**

1. **Topic Sentence: Identify Character and Flaw**

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1. **Embedded Quote:**

**Context and Location + Speaker + Quote + Parenthetical Citation of Page #**

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1. **You are almost done! On loose leaf, begin body paragraph 2 with the topic sentence and embedded quotation you just wrote. Then, copy the bottom three sections from your planning guide. (If you used complete sentences there, then you should be done!)**

**BODY PARAGRAPH THREE**

1. **Topic Sentence: Identify Character and Flaw**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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1. **Embedded Quote:**

**Context and Location + Speaker + Quote + Parenthetical Citation of Page #**

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1. **You are almost done! On loose leaf, begin body paragraph 3 with the topic sentence and embedded quotation you just wrote. Then, copy the bottom three sections from your planning guide. (If you used complete sentences there, then you should be done!)**

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Romeo and Juliet

**FINAL ESSAY – Intro and Conclusion Paragraphs**

**INTRODUCTION**

1. **Lead:** Use any of the techniques you know for writing a lead. Try to hook your reader into the theme of fate or the theme of character flaws.

* **dictionary definition:** Merriam Webster defines “fate” as “an inevitable course of events.”
* **rhetorical question:** 
  + Is it possible that none of our actions actually have any effect on our final destiny? That, in the end, it all comes down to our stars?
  + Would it be worth it to change anything about ourselves if nothing we did actually affected our future?
* **quotation:** In the prologue of *Romeo and Juliet*, Shakespeare calls Romeo and Juliet “star-crossed,” introducing from the opening minutes of the play the possibility that their tragic end was unavoidable.
* **interesting fact:** In the Elizabethan era people strongly believed in astrology, fate, and destiny. Many people believed they had no influence in their life and that everything was already planned out.

**YOURS**

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1. **Topic – Copy this:** Fate is seen by many of the characters in William Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet* as the reason for Romeo and Juliet's downfall.
2. **Thesis – Use this sentence, but with the names of the characters you are writing about:** In truth, however, it is the character flaws and actions of **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,** **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,** and **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,**  that truly lead to their deaths.
3. **Copy 1-3 onto loose leaf. You’re done!**

**MODEL - INTRODUCTION:**

In the Elizabethan era people strongly believed in astrology, fate, and destiny. Many people believed they had no influence in their life and that everything was already planned out. Fate is seen by many of the characters in William Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet* as the reason for Romeo and Juliet's downfall. In truth, however, it is the character flaws and actions of Tybalt, the Nurse, and Friar Lawrence that truly lead to Romeo and Juliet’s deaths.

**CONCLUSION**

1. **Restate Thesis – use different words:**

Despite the many references to fate and destiny in *Romeo and Juliet*, it is actually human action that causes the tragedy. In particular, the character flaws and actions of Tybalt, the Nurse, and Friar Lawrence contribute greatly to Romeo and Juliet’s tragic end.

**YOURS**

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1. **Significance – reflect on what can be learned from your analysis of the characters in Romeo and Juliet. Write 3-7 sentences. You may choose to respond to one or more of the questions below, or to write your own reflection.**

* Choose the character whose flaw you think is the worst of the three you wrote about, and explain why this particular flaw is so destructive.
* Make a personal connection to one or more of the character flaws your wrote about in your paper. How have you seen the effects of this flaw in your own life or the life of someone you know?
* Imagine how things could have turned out differently if one or more of your character’s had been “flawless.” How could eliminating their character flaw have changed Romeo and Juliet’s tragic end?
* Why is it important to be aware of our own character flaws and actions, and how our choices affect our own lives and the lives of the people around us?

1. **Copy numbers one and two onto loose leaf. You’re done!**

**MODEL - CONCLUSION:**

Despite the many references to fate and destiny in *Romeo and Juliet*, it is actually human action that causes the tragedy. In particular, the character flaws and actions of Tybalt, the Nurse, and Friar Lawrence contribute greatly to Romeo and Juliet’s tragic end. Of these three characters, Tybalt’s violent and unforgiving nature is probably the worst flaw. Although he seems to be a minor character, his flaw leads him to continue the deadly cycle of feuding between the Capulets and Montagues that ultimately separates Romeo and Juliet. In my opinion, to be unwilling to forgive is one of the worst possible character flaws anyone can have because even if others want to make peace (like Romeo did!), an unforgiving person can keep a violent and hateful cycle going by refusing to make peace. The destructive force of unforgiveness is alive today on the streets of New Orleans and in cities across America, and it often proves just as deadly as Tybalt’s unforgiveness in *Romeo and Juliet*.