

Romeo and Juliet Theme Analysis Essay

To help review and fully analyze the common themes from this play, let's write a five paragraph essay focusing on how one of the overall theme is fully developed through these characters and events that happens over the course of this text. Follow the prewriting steps below and be sure to complete all steps to ensure success!

1. Themes and plot event selection: Select ONE theme and THREE events from the chart below.

Themes	Act I	Act II	Act III	Act IV	Act V
People who act in a rash manner regret their actions.	Romeo OR Juliet fall in love (I.5)	Romeo OR Juliet marry (II.6) Friar agrees to marry Romeo to Juliet (II.3)	Mercutio fighting Tybalt (III.1) Romeo fighting Tybalt (III.1)	Friar to help Juliet with her marriage to Paris (IV.1) Juliet to follow Friar's plan (IV.2 or IV.3)	Romeo to buy poison (V.1) Juliet commits suicide (V.3)
Children are victims of their parents' inflexible decisions. (Feud between families)	Romeo OR Juliet fall in love (I.5)	Friar marries Romeo and Juliet (II.6) The Nurse helps Juliet marry Romeo (II.4 or II.5)	Lord Capulet Arranges for Juliet to marry Paris (III.4 or III.5) Romeo's banishment (III.3)	Juliet agrees to marry Paris (IV.2)	Juliet's OR Romeo's death (V.3)
Children do not understand that they need parental guidance.	Romeo depressed about Rosaline (I.1) Juliet refuses the idea of marriage (I.3)	Friar agrees to marry Romeo to Juliet (II.3) The Nurse helps Juliet marry Romeo (II.4 or II.5)	The Nurse OR Friar arrange for Romeo and Juliet to be together one last night (III.3)	Juliet goes to Friar for help (IV.1)	Juliet decides not to follow Friar after waking up (V.3)
Love and hate are closely related that one leads to the other.	Tybalt wants to fight Romeo for coming to the Capulet party (I.5) Romeo OR Juliet fall in love (I.5)	Romeo OR Juliet marry (II.6)	Tybalt wants to fight Romeo (III.1) Romeo does not want to fight Tybalt (III.1)	Juliet's love for Romeo (IV.1- fearless or IV.3 – fearful)	Romeo's love for Juliet (V.1 or V.3) Juliet's love for Romeo (V.3)

2. Plot events and quotes: Using the three events selected from step 1, complete the chart below using specifics from the text. (Note: This information is the supporting details for the body paragraphs.)

-Character

-Plot event

-Act, Scene

-Quote stated by character (Shakespearean text)

3. Outline of Five Paragraph Essay

Introduction (five to seven sentences)

Hook - A general statement about theme: what does this theme mean?

Background information – Give a brief summary of *Romeo and Juliet* and character(s) that you will discuss

Thesis (Subject (theme) + opinion + why)

How does this character or these characters and his/her/their actions illustrate this theme?

i.e. Since these three characters act quickly, they demonstrate (use an analytical verb) that they could be careless about others since they end up regretting their choices.

First Body Point (seven to 10 sentences)

Topic sentence - State character and explain event, which is how this character shows theme

Context of quote – What's going on in this scene?

Introduce quote – Who is speaking and to whom?

State direct quote from text – See quote written in chart.

Explain detail – How does this character get in this situation? What happens before this event? What happens after it?

Analyze detail – Why does this character do this action? What does he/she gain? What does he/she lose?

Wrap-up point of paragraph – What is the main reason why this character does what he or she does?

Second Body Point (seven to 10 sentences)

Topic sentence - State character and explain event, which is how this character shows theme

Context of quote – What’s going on in this scene?

Introduce quote – Who is speaking and to whom?

State direct quote from text – See quote written in chart.

Explain detail – How does this character get in this situation? What happens before this event? What happens after it?

Analyze detail – Why does this character do this action? What does he/she gain? What does he/she lose?

Wrap-up point of paragraph – What is the main reason why this character does what he or she does?

Third Body Point (seven to 10 sentences)

Topic sentence - State character and explain event, which is how this character shows theme

Context of quote – What’s going on in this scene?

Introduce quote – Who is speaking and to whom?

State direct quote from text – See quote written in chart.

Explain detail – How does this character get in this situation? What happens before this event? What happens after it?

Analyze detail – Why does this character do this action? What does he/she gain? What does he/she lose?

Wrap-up point of paragraph – What is the main reason why this character does what he or she does?

Conclusion (five sentences)

Rephrase thesis – Rewrite last sentence of introduction.

How does the theme relate to reader's lives of today?

What can one learn from these characters to make future decisions regarding this theme?