

Romeo and Juliet

Final Essay and Project Honors

Essay Info:

Typed Rough Draft Due: **Friday April 22nd**
Final Draft Due to turnitin.com: **Monday April 25th**
Total Possible Points: 100

Final Project Info:

Final Project Due: **Friday April 29th**
Final Project Informal Presentations: **April 28th-29th**
Total Possible Points: 100

ESSAY REQUIREMENTS:

General Requirements:

- ☞ Choose **1** of the following prompts – designate which prompt you are responding to in your submission title
- ☞ Your essay should reflect a deep understanding of the characters and their traits
- ☞ You must **embed and properly cite** at least **3 lines/passages** quoted from the play

Rubric:

Your essay will be graded on Focus, Organization, Evidence, Commentary, and Language Conventions.

Essay Prompts:

1. Choose a character in the play and analyze how their character develops over the course of the play. Discuss their character traits using STEAL examples for your concrete details/textual support.
2. Many characters in *Romeo and Juliet* have foils. Compare two characters in the play and show their similarities and/or differences in personality and behavior. Some possible pairs include Romeo/Juliet, Romeo/Paris, Lord and Lady Montague/Capulet, Friar/Nurse, Tybalt/Mercutio, Tybalt/Benvolio, Romeo/Mercutio, Romeo/Benvolio, etc.
3. Discuss the relationships between parents and children in *Romeo and Juliet*. How do Romeo and Juliet interact with their parents? Are they rebellious in the modern sense? How do their parents feel about them?
4. Who is responsible for the tragedy of *Romeo and Juliet*? Friar Laurence? The two lovers themselves? Their parents? Do a number of people share the blame? To what extent can these people be held responsible for the deaths of Romeo and Juliet? Analyze the actions of the character(s) you think are responsible for the lovers' deaths.
5. Analyze the characters of the Nurse and Friar Laurence as mentors to the young people in the play. Do these two people do the "right thing" in their relationships with Romeo and Juliet?

FINAL PROJECT REQUIREMENTS:

General Requirements:

- ☞ Choose **1** of the following projects
- ☞ Your project should reflect a familiarity with the play, its main themes, and characters
- ☞ You must use at least **3 lines/passages** quoted from the play somewhere in your project, either in the creative portion itself or in explanatory sections (such as the paragraphs required for the soundtrack project).
- ☞ Some of the project suggestions require graphics and/or photographs. The photo must be created (taken or drawn) by you. You may not use images found on the internet and will earn a **zero** if you use any images not created by you. You may take photos of objects; kudos if you dress-up/act as a character and take selfies ☺

Grading:

Your project will be graded on:

- 20 pts Depth of understanding of the character's traits
- 20 pts Accuracy of understanding the plot and themes; and the characters' involvement therein
- 15 pts Integration of quotes
- 15 pts Effort, Creativity, and Attention to Detail
- 30 pts Fulfillment of all requirements (specific to individual project)

Project Options:

Diary/Blog: Create a booklet of excerpts from the journal/diary of one of the main characters. In that character's voice (first person), you will create at least 10 dated original entries based on what is happening at the time. This will allow you (as that character) to comment on the major events of the plot. The entries must cover the scope of the novel from the time of the character's first involvement in the story to the end. A more up-to-date variation of this project would be to create a blog with at least 10 entries, including comments by other characters.

Requirements: 10 dated entries of at least 1 paragraph. Include the first significant appearance of the character in the story; significant experiences that your character has with other characters; important events that happen to the character; any physical/psychological changes in the character; where the character leaves the story. Integrate 3 quotes from the play in your entries with citation.

Romeo's and/or Juliet's Scrapbook: Compile a scrapbook of memorabilia that Romeo or Juliet might have collected or come across during the play. Every artifact must be captioned with where he or she got it, its significance to her/him, and the Act/Scene and lines you found it on. Think of the images that keep recurring in the novel, the places they go, and anything she/he might collect (it could be something from a secondary character). The artifacts should represent: the first significant appearance of the character in the story; significant experiences that the character has with other characters; important events that happen to the character; any physical/psychological changes in the character; where the character leaves the story.

Requirements: 2 artifacts per Act (10 artifacts). At least 1 paragraph explanation on each item in scrapbook. Your scrapbook should include one of the overarching themes of *Romeo and Juliet*. Integrate 3 quotes from the play in your explanation of artifacts with citation. All artwork must be original.

The Mixed CD: Make a 10 song mixed CD for Romeo and/or Juliet if they were around today. Explain in a typed letter from Romeo to Juliet or Juliet to Romeo, why each of the ten songs are on the mixed CD. Each song should have at least 1 paragraph of lyric analysis, explaining how it correlates to a situation/feeling the character experienced. Use evidence from the themes, symbols, motifs, and situations that the play explored.

Requirements: 10 songs on a burned CD with a creative cover (artist/song titles included) and case. A typed letter with at least 1 paragraph explanation for each song. Integrate 3 quotes from the play in your explanation of song choice with citation. All artwork must be original.

Character Instagram: Choose one of the main characters (Romeo, Juliet, Mercutio, Tybalt, or Benvolio) and create for him/her an (poster/notecard bound/hard-copy) Instagram account. Put together a chronological series of "pics" that demonstrate the depth of your understanding of characterization and plot. Even though your captions and comments will be of few words, they must show thorough understanding of character traits.

Requirements: You must have a minimum of 9 colored "pics" that are arranged in chronological order. Each photo must have: date/time posted, user caption and hashtags, minimum of 3 comments from other users and number of likes ♥s. Create a username and short profile for your character's Instagram. Integrate 3 quotes from the play with citation. Pictures must be original.

Romeo and Juliet in the Digital Age: Instead of writing notes and letters, what if the characters of the play had been able to send email? Choose one main character to send the original emails, and then create responses back from additional characters. For example Romeo could send emails and get responses from Juliet, the Friar, Benvolio, Mercutio, and Juliet again.

Requirements: Write at least 5 exchanges of email (one exchange is an email of at least 1 paragraph by one character with at least 1 paragraph response from one other character). The entries should go beyond just a discussion of plot; the messages should reflect the characters' concerns with issues related to major themes of the play that reflect an understanding of character traits. Integrate 3 quotes from the play with citations. All emails should be typed.

After you choose your project format, you may ask specific questions after class or by email. The goal of this project is for you to demonstrate your overall understanding of *Romeo and Juliet*: the plot, characters, and themes. Be creative, put your full effort into it, and have fun!

