

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: Select ONE and circle your selection (select the one you fell most comfortable with)

- People who act in a rash (acting quickly and without thinking) manner sometimes live to regret their actions.
- Children are often victims of their parents' inflexible decisions.
- Children do not understand that they sometimes need parental guidance.
- Positive and negative human emotions – love and hate – are so closely related that one often leads to the other.
- Suffering often causes alienation, but, paradoxically, it is often the only means that can bring people together.

2. Brainstorm: Complete the chart below using specifics from the text. (Note: This information is the supporting details for the body paragraphs.)

| Character | Examples to explain how character demonstrates the theme (need a plot event and a quote) |
|-----------|--|
| | |
| | |
| | |

Once you have finished all three details for #2, think about them to answer the following questions: How do these characters and their actions illustrate this theme?

Answer (this is the opinion and why of thesis):

3. Outline of Five Paragraph Essay

Introduction (five to seven sentences)

hook (a general statement about theme- what does this theme mean?)

background information (brief summary/explanation of *Romeo and Juliet* and characters that you will discuss)

thesis (Subject (theme) + opinion + why (see above answer))

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

First Body Point (seven to 10 sentences)

Topic sentence (state character and how this character shows theme):

Supporting detail (need context of quote, introduce quote, state direct quote from text):

Explain detail (**how** does this quote explain the character and theme):

Analyze detail (**why** does this quote explain the character and theme):

Wrap-up point of paragraph:

Second Body Point (seven to 10 sentences)

Topic sentence (state character and how this character shows theme):

Supporting detail (need context of quote, introduce quote, state direct quote from text):

Explain detail (**how** does this quote explain the character and theme):

Analyze detail (**why** does this quote explain the character and theme):

Wrap-up point of paragraph:

Third Body Point (seven to 10 sentences)

Topic sentence (state character and how this character shows theme):

Supporting detail (need context of quote, introduce quote, state direct quote from text):

Explain detail (**how** does this quote explain the character and theme):

Analyze detail (**why** does this quote explain the character and theme):

Wrap-up point of paragraph:

Conclusion (five sentences)

Rephrase thesis

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

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