*Romeo and Juliet*

Evaluative Essay

You will write a 5-paragraph essay responding to **ONE** of the following prompts:

**OPTION 1:** **the paradoxical nature of man: To what extent is Shakespeare suggesting man is inherently good or evil?**

**Shared Inquiry: Can good and evil exist simultaneously?**

* Explain Friar Lawrence’s belief about the paradoxical nature of man.
* Choose one character to evaluate in terms of their demonstration of this paradox
* Be sure to address your criteria for the terms “good” and “evil” (or similar terms of your choosing
* Address whether the character’s intentions align with the outcome of their actions and whether or not that matters.
* Consider what you think Shakespeare might be condemning and/or condoning
* THESIS: Shakespeare suggests that . . .

**OPTION 2:** **the paradoxical nature of love: To what extent is Shakespeare suggesting love is constructive or destructive?**

**Shared Inquiry:** **How do people interpret love differently?**

At what point does love become constructive/destructive?

* Overall, is Shakespeare suggesting that love is a constructive or destructive force? How is this demonstrated through different characters or scenes?
  + You might do each body paragraph about a different character’s opinion and experience.
  + You might do each body paragraph about a difference scene and discuss how it demonstrates multiple interpretations from different characters.
* Choose three characters. You might show how each represents a different point of view or how they all demonstrate both.
* Explain what “love” is according to each character.
* Where do we see characters acting out of love? Consider their intent (i.e. Tybalt acts out of love for his family, but he acts in a destructive way.)
* THESIS: Shakespeare suggests that love is . . .

**Pre-write**: Make a side-by-side graphic organizer of arguments and counterarguments to help you prepare. This should essentially serve as an outline, with each body paragraph having its own argument.

Anticipate counterarguments and offer rebuttals as necessary throughout the essay.

\*Note: Be sure to use citations for support, NOT summary.