

Example Essay

I. Introduction: Write out a complete introduction for your essay. Use complete sentences and **DO NOT** forget any of the following components: Title, author's name, necessary background information, the theme in relationship to the play, and the **THESIS!!!**

Fate is written in the stars. It is destiny. It is fortune. It is what is bound to happen. In *Romeo and Juliet*, William Shakespeare explores this concept of fate through his use of plot development. In the play, fate drives the action and creates the conflicts. This universal theme is all-powerful, and although characters like Romeo and Juliet try to thwart its progress and create their own paths of free will, fate continually asserts its desires, making it impossible to escape its grasp.

II. Body Paragraph #1: Universal Theme analysis in *Romeo and Juliet*

1. **Topic sentence:** Write the **complete sentence** and make sure it relates to the **Thesis**.

The play *Romeo and Juliet* begins and ends with references to fate.

2. **Supporting Evidence #1:** Include correct MLA Formatting + Proper Parenthetical Citations
Act #: Scene #: Line(s) # (Example: 3:1:120-121)

"A pair of star-cross'd lovers take their life; whose misadventur'd piteous overthrows doth, with their death, bury their parents' strife" (1: Prologue: 6-8).

3. **Analysis #1:** Offer analysis on **Supporting Evidence #1**

In the first few lines of the play, the audience is told that Romeo and Juliet are "star-crossed lovers". These two individuals were never meant to be together.

4. **Analysis #2:** Offer analysis on **Supporting Evidence #1**

Romeo and Juliet's love, although great, was thwarted by outside forces. Their parents' feud caused too much turmoil, too much strife, thus afflicting any hope these two lovers had of ever lasting.

5. **Supporting Evidence #2:** Include correct MLA Formatting + Proper Parenthetical Citations

"A greater power than we can contradict hath thwarted our intents" (5: 3: 153-154).

6. **Analysis #1:** Offer analysis on **Supporting Evidence #2**

A higher power controlled Romeo and Juliet's destiny. It was only through their deaths, that their parents' feud was finally squashed.

7. **Analysis #2:** Offer analysis on **Supporting Evidence #2**

As the reality of death washed over their families, and grief began to set in, both Montague and Capulet swore to honor each other's children, to never forget the sacrifice of innocent life.

8. **Concluding Sentence:** Needs to **wrap up** the paragraph

Fate forced two foes to come together, to relinquish their hatred and to embrace forgiveness.

III. Conclusion: In this paragraph you should **restate** your thesis (Say your thesis again, but say it in a creatively different way). Briefly summarize, or **Review**, your main points. This should be done in **1-2 sentences**. Then end with a clincher, your last impression where you will **round-off** your paper by relating back to the attention-getter.

Creating one's own destiny is a motivating factor in Romeo and Juliet. In the play, the characters find out that they cannot outwit what has been predetermined. Fate brings hope and peace to feuding families, in Romeo and Juliet, but only after the demise of two young lovers. This play is a commentary on the power of fate, for we are all just "players" in fate's ambiguous plan.