***Macbeth* Final Essay Due Friday 10/13**

# Topics

1. **Tragedy**: *Macbeth* is commonly referred to as *The Tragedy of Macbeth*. Discuss the conflicts of Macbeth—as developed by Shakespeare—and how the author finally resolves them. In doing so, you must answer the following questions: What is Macbeth’s tragic flaw? Is Macbeth an evil character?
2. **Blood**: Discuss how Shakespeare utilizes blood—both literally and metaphorically—throughout the play. In answering this question, try to avoid discussing blood as only representing one concept (i.e. blood=justice).
3. **Gender roles**: Compare and contrast Macbeth and Lady Macbeth. Consider “normal” male and female behavior (as discussed in class) and analyze how these two characters either violate or uphold these norms.
4. **Nature/Natural Order**: There are numerous references to both “nature” and the “natural order” throughout the play. Pick two or three of these references and analyze how they relate to the story. In other words, how does what is happening in nature correspond to what is happening in the play?
5. **Light/Dark**: Discuss how Shakespeare utilizes “light/dark”—both literally and metaphorically—throughout the play. In answering this question, try to avoid discussing these two concepts as merely “good” and “evil.”
6. Length
7. This essay needs to be **THREE pages long**, double-spaced and typed. This does not mean 2.5 pages! It also means no more than five pages.
8. Outline (attached) needs to be filled out **BEFORE** you begin your essay
9. Rubric
10. Outline: Thesis Statement , 6 quotes, 3 topic sentences, 5 paragraphs
11. Paper: Ideas (10), Conventions (10), Organization (10), Sentence Fluency (10), Format/Citations (10)
12. **Total Value: 50 points**
13. Ideas on Construction
14. Introductory Paragraph
* Start out broad and narrow to thesis.
* General statement on topic of your choice
* Background of topic
* Narrow down to topic
* **Specific Thesis Statement** that maps out organization of the essay
1. Body Paragraphs
* Each paragraph should have strong topic sentence.
* Each paragraph should contain at least **two embedded quotes** to illustrate a quality or characteristic. Quotes are like pictures in a book. They do not tell the story; they illustrate it. You are the storyteller. Do not depend on your quotes to prove your point. What you say about your quote (how you logically tie your quotes into your argument) should prove your point.

The three steps in proving a point are:

1. Make a statement
2. Use **embedded quotes** to illustrate your point
3. Analysis: logically show the reader how the particular quote or example proves your point
4. Conclusion Paragraph
* Hint back to thesis
* Broaden out to discuss the implications of your essay.
* Paragraph should have at least four sentences.

# Helpful Hints

1. Always write in present tense (says not said, does not did, etc.)
2. **Always use lead-ins before** each quote, i.e., EMBED YOUR QUOTES!
3. Topic sentences should refer back to your thesis statement. A thesis statement will mention your topic sentence subjects in the order in which they occur in the body of your paper.
4. Write in 3rd Person! Don’t use “I” or “I believe” or “you”
5. Don’t write “this quote shows” or “here is a quote that proves.” This is redundant.
6. Always discuss each quote and its significance.
7. While some clarification is necessary, be careful telling too much of the story. Tell the reader what was going on when the quote was said. Think of the reader as someone who has not read the story, but is intelligent. The reader is a friend of yours, not the teacher. Thus, don’t assume anything.
8. Formatting
9. Typed
* one-inch margins all around text – left side, right side, top, and bottom
* 12 font – Times New Roman ONLY
* paragraphs indented
* double spaced
* Works Cited page if applicable
1. Heading and Title
* No title page
* Left-hand margin of the first page type
* your name (first and last)
* your instructor’s name
* title of your course 
* date due
* Title
* double-space again and center title
* double-space again before beginning your text

 ½” 

 1”

Jeff Cruz

 Mr. Bassett



 1” English II *(Note double-spacing throughout)*

 6 October 2014

Problem of Light in the Political Novels of Joseph Conrad

 It has been said that the political novels of Joseph Conrad are enjoyed primarily by those

