

Macbeth Literary Research Essay

You will write a literary research essay (5 total paragraphs). You will have 5 class periods to complete this essay, and you may work on it at home. You will be required to complete an outline, rough draft (with proof of editing), and a final good copy. This essay will involve you finding quotations from academic sources to support your points.

Your research (secondary source quotations) must come from one or more of the following academic journals (accessible through GALE). The password is **Gale4OCSB**. (Remember to search academic journals, full text)

- Literature Resource Centre
- Artemis Literary Sources
- Academic OneFile

- Google Scholar (sometimes you have to sign up/pay to gain access)

- ✓ You will be expected to incorporate at least ONE primary source quotation from *Macbeth* (i.e., quoting from the play) and ONE secondary source quotation in each body paragraph. You may incorporate more quotations if you feel they are effective and appropriate.
- ✓ You should refer to at least **2 different secondary sources**.
- ✓ Only sources found through the academic databases (through Gale) or Google Scholar will be accepted.
- ✓ You will be expected to include **in-text citations for any quotations** or paraphrasing, as well as a **Works Cited page**. Secondary sources from anywhere else will not be accepted.
- ✓ You need to craft an ARGUABLE, ORIGINAL THESIS for your essay, related to one of the topics provided. “Macbeth is an ambitious character” is NOT an example of an arguable thesis. You also will need a clear blueprint of the points you plan to use to prove your thesis. Remember, you will have 3 body paragraphs. You need to discuss *Macbeth* and have at least one primary source quotation and at least one secondary source quotation in each body paragraph.
- ✓ You will need to **create an outline** for your essay, which must be handed in with your final essay. It may be handwritten or typed.
- ✓ Your rough copy may be handwritten or typed. Either way, ensure your rough draft shows proof of editing.
- ✓ Your good copy should be typed and double-spaced, using 12 point font (Times New Roman), with one inch margins. You should have a header, a title (top of 1st pg), a Works Cited page, and your essay pages should be numbered with your last name.
- ✓ At the bottom of your Works Cited page, under the heading “**Reflection**”, write a one or two paragraph reflection on your own writing skills: How has your essay writing improved this semester? What do you still need to work on? What did you do to make this essay as good as possible? What were your challenges with this essay?
- ✓ A print copy of your essay is due at the start of class on _____. A **digital copy of your essay is due to ocsb.elearningontario.ca (to our course) on that same day.**
 - login
 - choose course ENG3U
 - go to assessments

- create a dropbox folder and name it
- add file and submit



Steps:

- Brainstorm/Create thesis and blueprint
- Find quotations/ Write Outline
- Rough copy
- Edit, edit, edit
- Typed good copy with outline and works cited submitted
- Typed good copy with outline and works cited submitted- digital copy to course site: ocsb.elearningontario.ca

Submission Requirements:

- Typed Good copy
 - MLA Works Cited page with Reflection at the bottom
 - Rubric with your name on it
- Outline (handwritten or typed)
- Rough Copy (handwritten or typed)
- Editing checklist
- Submitted to elearning
- DEADLINE:** _____

Macbeth Essay Topics- Choose ONE. Be sure to fully address the topic in your essay.

1. Who is to blame for Macbeth's downfall? Macbeth himself? Lady Macbeth? The witches? Write an essay in which you assign the responsibility to one of these.
2. Discuss Shakespeare's use of imagery with reference to 2-3 recurring images. How do these images relate to one overall theme in the play?
3. Macbeth is a tragic hero who brings about his own downfall. Prove that this is true.
4. Many critics see Lady Macbeth as a stereotyped symbol of evil (morally bad, wicked, harmful); others cite her human qualities as proof that Shakespeare meant her to be a multifaceted character (many sides, character traits). Defend either interpretation.
5. Some critics liken Macbeth and his wife to Adam and Eve. Do you think the comparison is justified/appropriate? Explain.
6. What is Shakespeare's *Macbeth* saying about Machiavelli's teaching? Review the handout "Machiavelli and The Prince," given in class.

***** Remember you need to create an arguable, original thesis based on your chosen topic, write a 3-point blueprint, and incorporate research from one or more academic sources.