



# Literary Essay

## Steps to writing the Perfect Literary Essay

The first step you have to take in writing the perfect essay is to read and **understand** the question. The question for this essay is written below. Once you understand the question, your job is to plan a response that takes a position and provides a lot of detail to reinforce that position. The question for this essay is:

**“Fate is a significant theme in the play Romeo and Juliet, how did William Shakespeare advance this idea in the play?”**

### PLANNING

#### **FATE:**

*The main idea of the play “Romeo and Juliet” is...*

**THREE METHODS USED TO COMMUNICATE THIS IDEA:** (These methods can be any element of the text - the character, the plot, the setting or even any language techniques that are used).

**METHOD ONE:** *One method Shakespeare uses is the metaphor of the “stars”, he uses this metaphor to support the idea that...*

EXAMPLE:

**METHOD TWO:**

EXAMPLE:

**METHOD THREE:**

EXAMPLE:





## ONE: INTRODUCTION

The introduction is designed to outline the argument you're going to present in your essay. It will show the position you're going to take and it will outline the points that you're going to make in the body that back up your argument.

### A simple introduction has three parts:

- ▶ It echoes the question.
- ▶ It states your point of view
- ▶ It introduces your main points

Write an introduction to your essay in the following space that achieves the three objectives above. You must remember to use the rules of formal writing when you structure your introduction.

*William Shakespeare deals with many of mankind's universal themes in his plays. In Romeo and Juliet, he communicates the idea that...*

*To communicate this idea he uses...*





## TWO: BODY

The body is where the really important information is communicated. In the body most of your opinions and ideas are expressed. Every new idea is expressed in a new paragraph, and each paragraph must also include an example and an explanation.

### The body of your essay needs to:

- ▶ Discuss **each point** made in the introduction in turn.
- ▶ **Keep** the argument going
- ▶ Keep on track by constantly **referring** to the over-all topic
- ▶ Give supporting **detail** to back up what you say
- ▶ Be **organised** in a logical manner
- ▶ Be carefully **paragraphed**

Each paragraph must be “**SEXY**”. That means that it must include a **statement**, an **example**, an **explanation** and then answer the question **why is this important?**

#### Statement:

This sentence introduces the paragraph. It states the main ideas of the paragraph. It links to the topic of the essay

S

#### Example:

This sentence gives evidence or proof of the point you are making. It should be in the form of a quotation from your film or text and it should support your Statement.

E

#### Explanation:

This explains how your example reinforces your statement. You give the reader more detail here and use key words from your introduction

X

#### Why is this important?

The final sentence of the paragraph convinces the reader that your paragraph does reinforce the over-all topic of the essay

Y





## THREE: CONCLUSION

The conclusion is designed to wrap up your essay by summarising your argument and underlining your main point. This paragraph should be short, simple and memorable. The best conclusions leave the reader convinced that your argument and point is confident and strong and valid. The words in the conclusion are the ones that the reader will harry away in their mind

### A simple conclusion has three parts:

- ▶ It states your point of view
- ▶ It summarises your main points
- ▶ It leaves the reader with confidence in your argument

Write a conclusion to your essay in the following space that achieves the three objectives above. You must remember to use the rules of formal writing when you structure your introduction.

The play Romeo and Juliet, written by William Shakespeare, communicates the idea that...

Shakespeare used...

The reader is left thinking, beyond a doubt that...

