

MACBETH

Essay Outline

English 20-1
In Class Essay Assignment

Name: _____

Choose ONE of the following essay topics. Then, highlight or circle your choice/

A. Discuss the idea(s) developed by the text creator in your chosen text about the impact of an individual's ambition on self and others.

B. Discuss the idea(s) developed by the text creator in your chosen text about the nature of motivations that direct an individual's course of action.

What does this question mean? *Follow the steps below to guide you.*

1. Highlight or box the key words in the chosen question above, then write them below.
2. For each word: Define it, and then provide a few synonyms for it.

PART I : Outline / Writing Process

1. **Provide a detailed written web and thought process concerning your topic, your chosen ideas and their relation. A thorough, detailed thesis statement.**

Place web here:

2. Creating a Thesis Statement

Using the information gained from the webbing process, now create a unified, controlled, detailed thesis statement for the point that you are trying to make. Include the three main points that will back up the argument that you are trying to make. These three main points will be the basis for your argument in each body paragraph and will prove your thesis statement. Essentially, they are the three opening/topic sentences for your body paragraphs.

Planning:

Thesis Statement: _____

Argument #1 (BP#1) _____

Argument #2 (BP#2) _____

Argument #3 (BP#3) _____

3. Writing an Introduction

An effective introduction introduces the key theme or topic of the essay, in an interesting fashion, captures interest, takes a stand, introduces the literature, introduces the thesis statement, and establishes an order. Movement is from a general topic to a specific literature and topic focus. Your introduction is your reader's first impression of your skills as a writer. It should be CLEAR, CONCISE, and WELL-WRITTEN.

Planning:

4. Body Paragraphs

Effective body paragraphs contain key components: the topic sentence reinforces the key idea established in the thesis, and introduces the character or other aspect of the literature to be discussed, the progression of details moves to logically develop the key idea. Essentially, each paragraph should provide responses to the following questions:

- What point are you making, relevant to the thesis statement?
- How can you most effectively and insightfully explain the point?
- What evidence can you provide to support the point? (Events / Quotes)
- What is the significance of the point you are developing to the literature, and to your essay as a whole? How does that point relate to the thesis statement?

**MAKE YOUR POINT! PROVE YOUR POINT! DISCUSS YOUR POINT!
RELATE THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUR POINT BACK TO YOUR THESIS!**

Exemplary paragraphs have certain basic elements:

- a focused controlling idea to be developed
- a strong knowledge of the literature selected
- supporting evidence from the literature, whether in the form of quotations or specific details, that reinforce the idea you are developing. The relevance and significance of each detail should be explained explicitly. Do not expect your reader to infer the point you are trying to make or the connection you are attempting to establish.
- logical organization of ideas and fluid, coherent writing style.

Choosing Details:

Many students has difficulty in determining which details or quotations are relevant to their essay. This is one of the challenges of writing essays. Below are some suggestions that may help you to decide which details to address in the literature to develop the topic or theme.

1. List significant events, incidents, and conflicts from the selection, preferably in chronological or logical order. Examples should illustrate some form of growth/degeneration or insightful/lack of insight on the part of the main character (or those characters who influence the main character). The number of details you choose depends on the type and length of the selected piece of literature.
2. Consider what is the author's purpose in writing about these events? What is being revealed, illustrated, discovered, or learned from these events?
3. Can these events, details, episodes, etc., be logically connected to the topic or theme of the essay?
4. Which details support your topic most strongly and effectively?
5. The choice of particular details, events, or quotations should show evidence of having been made for a deliberate purpose. Explicitly state the connections between your selections of detail and the topic.

The process involved in selecting the appropriate details will help eliminate details that are not pertinent or do not effectively convey the point you are making. This should also help you recognize the importance of selecting details and making connections so that your essay illustrates quality of thought.

***Remember that you are not merely providing a plot summary or a list of events. Your goal is to insightfully and perceptively illustrate the ways in which certain elements further the author's purpose, and connect this purpose to the essay topic you are developing. Once again, focus on addressing the question:**

What idea(s) does (the author) develop regarding (topic/theme)?

Your secondary focus:

What details or events support the author's idea(s)? How is this accomplished?

Your overall focus:

Why are these details or events significant, especially in respect to the theme or topic of the essay?

Body Paragraph #1 Topic Sentence / 1st Argument:

Now, go to your story and find the events / quotes that prove this point and write them here: (Don't forget Act, Scene and Lines notations!)

Now, use the above evidence/details from your story to explain explain your argument and prove your thesis.

Body Paragraph #2 Topic Sentence / 2nd Argument:

Now, go to your story and find the events / quotes that prove this point and write them here:

Now, use the above evidence/details from your story to explain explain your argument and prove your thesis.

Body Paragraph #3 Topic Sentence / 3rd Argument:

Now, go to your story and find the events / quotes that prove this point and write them here:

Now, use the above evidence/details from your story to explain explain your argument and prove your thesis.

5. Conclusion:

A conclusion should arise logically from the ideas developed in the essay, and relate thoughtfully from the controlling idea. In contrast to the introductory paragraph, the conclusion should begin with the specific idea raised in the thesis and broaden to a general or universal application or appreciation for the topic. A conclusion is typically 5-8 sentences in length, and contains the following components:

- restatement of the thesis in different word**
- a general observation or summation of the key topic or theme**
- closure communicates to the reader how your insights and perceptions, and your analysis of these aspects, are of significance.**

6. Transitions :

You must use at least 6 transitions within your essay. They must be highlighted to receive credit for them.