**Formalist Essay Outline**

A formalist essay is a type of expository essay that relies only on evidence found in a particular work (play, story, poem, etc.) in order to analyze a particular topic.

**Directions**: Use the following boxes to fill out and complete your 5 paragraph expository essay on *Romeo and Juliet*.

Each quote from the play must be cited with the act, line, and speaker. Here is an example:

*In Act 3, scene 1, Mercutio says to Romeo, “"A plague o' both your houses!” (Act 3, scene 1)*

**Choose one of the following topics:**

**1)** **Love vs. Infatuation** – Do Romeo and Juliet truly love each other or are they just obsessed with being in love?

**2) Accountability** – Who should be held responsible for the deaths of Romeo, Juliet and others who have died?

**Introduction Paragraph**

|  |
| --- |
| Introductory sentence identifying topic |
| Reason # 1 |
| Reason # 2 |
| Reason # 3 |
| Thesis Statement (What you believe and what you intend to prove with your evidence) |

**Body Paragraph 1**

|  |
| --- |
| (Transition) Reason # 1 |
| Supporting Evidence (identifying Act, scene, and speaker) |
| Explanation **and** Analysis\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |

**Body Paragraph 2**

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| (Transition) Reason # 2 |
| Supporting Evidence (identifying Act, scene, and speaker) |
| Explanation **and** Analysis\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |

**Body Paragraph 3**

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| (Transition) Reason # 3 |
| Supporting Evidence (identifying Act, scene, and speaker) |
| Explanation **and** Analysis\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |

**Conclusion**

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| Restate Thesis (What you believe and should have proven with your evidence) |
| Reason #3 |
| Reason #2 |
| Reason #1 |
| Concluding Statement |

When you are writing your interpretation/ explanation, use the following words/phrases:

* Shows
* Tells
* Illuminates
* Reveals
* Signals to the reader
* Proves
* Highlights
* Demonstrates
* Displays
* Expresses
* Confirms
* Affirms
* Verifies
* Conveys the idea that
* etc.

BANNED WORDS: (State and try to prove what you believe without having it come off as an opinion. I know it’s your opinion; it’s your essay! Present your case as FACT.)

* I
* My
* Me
* Mine
* Opinion

Remember: This is the Outline. Once you’ve gotten this right, you might have to “beef it up”!

You’ll be graded using the following Rubric/ Scoring Chart:

(To be attached with this Outline to your Final Draft)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Content and Explanation | 45 | + |
| Format (heading, font, typed, etc.) | 10 | + |
| Grammar, Punctuation, Mechanics | 10 | + |
| 3 Internal Quotes  | 15 | + |
| Style, Tone, Varied Vocabulary | 10 | + |
| Outline and Rubric | 10 | + |
| Total Points | 100 | = |