

Macbeth Short Essay Study Guide

Your essay should be a response to one of the following prompts and it should be 3-5 paragraphs in length.

1. Macbeth is one of Shakespeare's most dynamic tragic heroes. Analyze his character. (You can think about the significance of his experience, what he represents, examine his mental deterioration, etc.)
2. Lady Macbeth is one of Shakespeare's most powerful female characters. Analyze her character. (You can think about the significance of her experience, what she represents, her influence on her husband, her attraction to the supernatural, etc.)
3. The supernatural plays an important role in *Macbeth*. To what extent does it motivate Macbeth's actions?
4. *Macbeth* presents many themes for analysis. Choose one of the following themes - Guilt and Conscience, Ambition, Appearance vs. Reality, Good vs. Evil and Fate and Free Will - and discuss how it developed throughout the play.
5. *Macbeth* utilizes symbols throughout the play as metaphor. Discuss **THREE** of the following symbols, discuss their metaphorical meaning, and analyze what the use of each symbol added to the meaning of the work as a whole: sleep, clothing or robes, faces and hands, stars or the heavens, nature (animal, human nature, and weather).

Choose the prompt that you had the most ideas/answers for and you are ready to create your thesis statement. THE THESIS STATEMENT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF YOUR ESSAY. Everything that you write in your essay is connected back to your thesis so it needs to be strong.

**Your thesis statement must make a claim and include three points that back up the claim.
What claim does your thesis make?**

What are the three main points that back up this claim?

1.

2.

3.

What are three quotes from the play that help you prove this claim?

1.

2.

3.

Now, in your notebook, write your thesis in one or two complete sentences being sure to include the title of the play, the author's name, your claim and the three points that back it up.

Requirements

- Your essay must present a clear and arguable thesis statement.
- Your essay must be three to five paragraphs long.
- You must have three primary source quotes (from *Macbeth*) to support your thesis.
- Your essay must be typed and follow all MLA format, meaning that all quotes include the Act, Scene, and Line numbers. For example: Macbeth said, "... (V, ii, 8-10).