

Essay Prompts for *The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet*

Brainstorm and Plan due: _____

Directions: Review each passage and choose one to annotate. Then, brainstorm and plan for your timed writing next week. Your brainstorm and plan (outline) must:

- Be handwritten
- Be completed independently
- Not include internet sources of any kind
- Not include a list of any kind:
 - No list of transition words
 - No list of tone words

Passage One

PROMPT: At the Capulet ball, Romeo and Juliet meet and fall in love. Not until they are separated do they discover that they belong to enemy houses. Read the excerpt below and, in a well-developed essay, analyze what Shakespeare is revealing about fate and free will. Consider how he conveys his theme through his use of poetic and dramatic elements such as allusion, imagery, repetition, hyperbole, metaphor, personification, etc. in your analysis.

Act 1 Scene 5, lines 91-143 (line 104 in the Folger Edition book until the end of the scene)

ROMEO [To JULIET]	If I profane with my unworhiest hand This holy shrine, the gentle fine is this: My lips, two blushing pilgrims, ready stand To smooth that rough touch with a tender kiss.	
JULIET	Good pilgrim, you do wrong your hand too much, Which mannerly devotion shows in this; For saints have hands that pilgrims' hands do touch, And palm to palm is holy palmers' kiss.	
ROMEO	Have not saints lips, and holy palmers too?	
JULIET	Ay, pilgrim, lips that they must use in prayer.	100
ROMEO	O, then, dear saint, let lips do what hands do; They pray, grant thou, lest faith turn to despair.	
JULIET	Saints do not move, though grant for prayers' sake.	
ROMEO	Then move not, while my prayer's effect I take. Thus from my lips, by yours, my sin is purged.	
JULIET	Then have my lips the sin that they have took.	

The only son of your great enemy.

JULIET
My only love sprung from my only hate!
Too early seen unknown, and known too late!
Prodigious birth of love it is to me,
That I must love a loathed enemy.

Nurse
What's this? what's this?

JULIET
A rhyme I learn'd even now
Of one I danced withal.
[One calls within 'Juliet.']

Nurse
Anon, anon!
Come, let's away; the strangers all are gone

Passage Two

PROMPT: At the Capulet garden Romeo overhears Juliet express her love for him. When he answers her, they acknowledge their love and their desire to be married. Read the excerpt below and in a well-developed essay, analyze how Shakespeare challenges stereotypical gender roles. Consider poetic and dramatic elements such as allusion, imagery, repetition, hyperbole, metaphor, personification, etc in your analysis.

ACT 2, Scene 2, Line 36--the end of the scene (begin with "O Romeo, Romeo...")

Brainstorm

Plan (Outline)