***Macbeth* Essay Assignment**

Your assignment is to write a 2-3 page typed essay on one of the topics below. Make sure you include in your introductory paragraph an attention-getter and a thesis statement that will act as a guide for you and a preview for the reader. Give at least one citation from the play per major idea. See below topic choices to see how to properly cite from a verse play.

**1.** Macbeth is obviously the tragic hero in *Macbeth*. Trace his downfall due to his flaw throughout the play. Choose three specific, separated moments in the play to illustrate Macbeth’s downward spiral.

**2.** Lady Macbeth changes dramatically through the course of the play. What in her character allows for these changes? Follow her changes by choosing examples that illustrate the change in her psyche.

**3.** Shakespeare’s understanding of human faults and foibles is outstanding. He understood better than any of his peers what drives humans to their actions. Explore on a psychological level one of the major themes of *Macbeth*. Demonstrate through three specific examples Shakespeare’s understanding of human drives as illustrated in *Macbeth.*

4. Lady Macbeth was the leader in the partnership to kill Duncan. However, she took less and less part in each succeeding crime. Yet, in her sleepwalking scene, the details of **all** the murders are jumbled together. If she is not guilty of the other crimes, why does she relive them here? Write an essay in which you list all the crimes mentioned in this scene, evaluate Lady Macbeth’s involvement in each, and discuss the reasons for her guilt.

5. In Act IV, Scene 3, Malcolm lists twelve virtues of a good king: justice, truthfulness, temperance, stability, generosity, perseverance, mercy, humility, dedication, patience, courage, and fortitude. Select any three of these and explain why they are important characteristics of a good ruler.

To cite from a play, follow this rule: If the quote is less than four lines, cite within the paragraph as follows: “It was myself, my brother, and his son, / That brought you home, and boldly did outdare / The dangers of the time” (*1 Henry IV*, V. i, lines 39-41). Separate the lines of poetry with a forward slash. If your quote is more than four lines, set the quote outside of your paragraph as follows:

O, what a deal of scorn looks beautiful

In the contempt and anger of his lip!

A murd’rous guilt shows not itself more soon

Than love that would seem hid: love’s night is noon. -- (*Twelfth Night*, III.ii, lines 145-148)