**Teen Brain Research and *Romeo and Juliet***

The article by Malcolm Ritter explains how the teenage brain isn’t fully mature, and at ages 16 and 17, teens are more likely to be:

• Impulsive.

• Aggressive.

• Emotionally volatile.

• Likely to take risks.

• Reactive to stress.

• Vulnerable to peer pressure.

• Prone to focus on and overestimate short-term payoffs and underplay longer-term consequences of what they do.

• Likely to overlook alternative courses of action.

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**Assignment:**

**Create a graphic organizer that shows how the brain research outlined in the article relates to *Romeo and Juliet*. Provide examples of characters’ actions and words in the play.**

**The graphic organizer can be designed in any way you choose, but remember to make it easy to read and understand.**

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| **GRAPHIC ORGANIZER RUBRIC** |
| **Criteria** | **4** | **3** | **2** | **1** |
| Organization | Extremely well organized. Order &  structure of information is compelling and flows smoothly. | Organized. Structure allows reader to move through content without confusion. Flows smoothly | Somewhat organized structure allows reader to move through some of the content without confusion. Flow is sometimes interrupted. | Poorly organized. A clear sense of direction is not evident. Flow is frequently interrupted. |
| Content | Thorough and insightful understanding of content. Quotes are used to support. | Complete understanding of content. One quote is used to support. | Shows some understanding of content. Quotes are not used to support. | Shows incomplete understanding of material. |
| Creativity | Clean design; high visual appeal; symbols/graphics used effectively. | Design is fairly clean, with a few exceptions; diagram has visual appeal; symbols/shapes are used. | Cluttered design; low in visual appeal; symbols/shapes are not used. | Shows minimal critical effort. |
| Ideas | Insightful and well considered ideas making multiple connections. | Ideas are  considered; more than one thoughtful connection is made. | Ideas are somewhat on topic; makes some connections. | Ideas are unclear; few connections are made. |

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| **Teens are more likely to be:**  | **Connection to *Romeo and Juliet*** |
| Impulsive |  |
| Aggressive |  |
| Risk Takers |  |
| Vulnerable to peer pressure |  |
| Unable to see other courses of action |  |
| Focusing on short-term benefits rather than long-term consequences |  |