***Macbeth* Research Essay**

Our next unit will focus on the research essay, and you will be required to write a literary research essay based on Shakespeare’s *Macbeth.* A literary research essay combines both genres of essays that you have written in the past:

1. Literary essay (persuasive essay based on theme, conflict, character, etc. from a piece of literature that you’ve read or studied – ex: an essay on the author’s views of human nature in *Lord of the Flies*)
2. Research essay (a thesis essay supported by research – ex: an essay on the causes of rising obesity rates in Miramichi)

**First**, you must choose one of the themes in *Macbeth*:

* the peril of ambition
* deceptive appearances
* burden of guilt
* others could include…the effects of superstition on human behavior, corruption of power, the role of gender.

**Next,** research a historical or present day person or event that connects to your theme:

If you have an interest in history or politics, you could take a close look at a leader and compare him/her to Macbeth. If not, the theme could be related to issues in your school, group of friends, community, etc.

For example:

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| Theme | Historical/Political | Closer to Home Connections |
| Deceptive appearances | A historical or political figure who deceives others. | -Why people lie to make themselves appear better.  -Acting like someone you are not. |
| Peril of ambition | -A historical or political figure who planned political assassinations for personal gain.  -Corrupt U.S. banking officials who caused the recent depression, yet continue to cash in. | -social ranking and cliques in high school  -climbing the ranks of sports teams |
| Burden of guilt | -People who were involved in discriminatory activities (ex: KKK, Nazi concentration camp guards, Rwandan genocidaires, etc.) and dealt with guilt afterwards. | -drunk driver who causes someone’s death  -the role of guilt in teenage relationships  -guilt of a former bully/cyberbully |
| Corruption of Power | Hitler, Stalin, Bashar Al-Assad of Syria, Saddam Hussein, Richard Nixon, and the list could go on and on and on… | -think of people in your life who you feel abuse their power |

**Last,** once you’ve chosen your topic, you must develop a thesis and cite the connection between the novel’s theme and your topic.

**Writing Process:**

1. **Prewriting** –
   1. Choose a topic and brainstorm in your writers notebook.
   2. Research in the computer lab and home – be sure to collect quotes from your research and the play that support your thesis.
   3. Close reading of research material
   4. Develop a thesis statement and complete an essay outline.
2. **Drafting** – you will have some class time to work on the draft of your essay. You must have a clear introduction, body, and conclusion.
3. **Revising and Editing** – you may have time to share your essay with a partner. Also, I will be happy to look over drafts to help with revisions and editing.
4. **Publishing** – you will be given MLA formatting rules for your final copy.

**Formatting Points:**

Your essay must...

* Be a minimum of 4 pages in length (typed and double-spaced using 12 point font)
* have a works cited page, listing **three** outside sources and *Macbeth* (all of these sources must be quoted in your essay at least once – you can use more than three sources)
* use MLA formatting (remember to use proper formatting for works cited, in-text citations, and page numbers)

**DUE DATE:** The final copy of your essay is due on **Monday, May 29th.** We will use class time until Wednesday, May 24th, but after that it is up to you to finish the essay on your own time.

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| **Sunday** | **Monday** | **Tuesday** | **Wednesday** | **Thursday** | **Friday** | **Saturday** |
| **7** | **8** | **9** | **10**  -Intro to unit  -strong examples of essays  -Brainstorm topics – have topic ready for tomorrow | **11**  -Day One in lab to research | **12**  -Day Two to research in lab –  HW for Monday –  -Reading through research and highlighting key points | **13** |
| **14** | **15**  Organizing research-position/support websand thesis statements | **16**  Start working on outlines – finish for HW for tomorrow | **17**  **-**Style Review – effective strategies for leads, bodies  **-**Drafting in class | **18**  -drafting in class  **-**MLA review – in-text citations  **-**Drafting in class | **19**  **-**MLA review – finished product  **-**Drafting in class | **20** |
| **21** | **22**  **Victoria Day** | **23**  **-**effective strategies for conclusions | **24**  **-**last day in class to work on drafts  Essay due Monday, May 29th | **25**  **Begin Poetry Unit** | **26** | **27** |