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Grade 10 Students
ENG2D
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ISP Essay Outline: Romeo and Juliet

Thesis: Romeo and Juliet suggests that pure love, love that is not a means to an end but is an end in itself, cannot survive in the real world.

Introduction:

- Romeo and Juliet is considered a great love story, but most of the characters think love is a means to an end
 - in Romeo and Juliet, Capulet wants Juliet to marry Paris to strengthen the family's power, the Friar marries Romeo and Juliet in an attempt to end their families' feud, and Mercutio and the Nurse think of love as a way to get sexual pleasure
- Romeo and Juliet suggests that pure love, love that is not a means to an end but is an end in itself, cannot survive in the real world.

1st body paragraph:

Topic sentence: In the Verona of Romeo and Juliet, Juliet's father has final say over his daughter's love life, and for Capulet, love is ultimately a means to an end.

- at first, Capulet thinks Juliet is too young to marry Paris, and he seems to say that who she marries is up to her: "My child is yet a stranger in the world . . . Let two more summers wither in their pride, / Ere we may think her ripe to be a bride . . . woo her, gentle Paris, get her heart, / My will to her consent is but a part" (1.2.8-17)
- after the death of Tybalt, his young male kinsman – and in the face of the Prince's rage over Tybalt's killing of Mercutio – Capulet orders Juliet to marry Paris: "get thee to church o' Thursday, / Or never after look me in the face" (3.5.166-7)
- Capulet sees Juliet as a means to an end: her marriage to Paris will consolidate his power and link his family to the Prince

2nd body paragraph:

Topic sentence: Capulet does not know that the Friar, who also sees love as a means to an end, has already married Juliet to Romeo.

- the Friar opposed Romeo and Juliet's marriage at first: "Young men's love . . . lies / Not truly in their hearts, but in their eyes" (2.3.68-9)
- the Friar agrees to marry Romeo and Juliet because he hopes their relationship will bring peace to Verona: "this alliance may so happy prove / To turn your households' rancour to pure love" (2.4.94-5)
- the Friar sees Romeo and Juliet's relationship as a means to an end: their marriage will end the feud between the Montagues and the Capulets

3rd body paragraph:

Topic sentence: Two relatively minor characters in the play, Mercutio and the Nurse, see love as a means to another kind of end: sexual pleasure.

- Mercutio assumes that Romeo's love for Rosaline is really an attempt to get close to her "fine

foot, straight leg, and quivering thigh, / And the demesnes that there adjacent lie” (2.1.21-2)
- the Nurse sees Juliet’s marriage to Romeo as merely preliminary to consummation: “you shall bear the burden soon at night” (2.5.76), she tells her
- Mercutio and the Nurse see love in general, and Romeo and Juliet’s love in particular, as a means to an end: it is just a prelude to sexual pleasure

4th body paragraph:

Topic sentence: Romeo and Juliet’s love is an end in itself – they do not expect to get anything from their love except for love.

- Juliet tells Romeo “My bounty is as boundless as the sea, / My love as deep; the more I give to thee, / The more I have, for both are infinite” (2.2.139-41)
- Romeo and Juliet refuse to compromise, or to make love a means to an end, and so they end up killing themselves
- Romeo and Juliet’s pure love could not survive in the corrupt, violent city of Verona

Conclusion:

- though it is celebrated as a great love story, Romeo and Juliet suggests that pure love cannot survive in the real world, that it can only last for a few days
- the text reminds readers that human beings should not be seen as means to ends, and that when human beings are used in this way, the results can be deadly