

MACBETH THEME TRACING TASK

Consider **two thematic motifs** (selecting from the five covered in the in-class notes) as they appear in the first four acts of the drama; in formal, analytical, present-tense, third-person paragraphs which feature **relevant, woven, cited quotations** as well as the playwright – **Shakespeare** – as the **subject** of the majority of their sentences (*see page two of this document*), respond to the following prompts:

MOTIF #1 (Paragraph 1)

1a) How does Shakespeare initially introduce this concept in the play? Be specific here, pointing out and describing the specific moment in the play in which this idea first appears as well as its potential impact on the audience.

2-3 sentences

1b) How does the playwright develop this motif, fleshing it out as a complex question rather than a mere idea? Identify and explain at least two moments from the play's first four acts in which the thematic motif is expanded, subverted, trivialized, or explored.

3-4 sentences

MOTIF #2 (Paragraph 2)

2a) How does Shakespeare initially introduce this concept in the play? Be specific, identifying and describing the specific moment in the play in which this idea first appears as well as its potential impact on the audience.

2-3 sentences

2b) How does the playwright develop this motif, fleshing it out as a complex question rather than a mere idea? Identify and explain at least two moments from the play's first four acts in which the thematic motif is expanded, subverted, trivialized, or explored.

3-4 sentences

BOTH MOTIFS (Paragraph 3)

3a) Based on the first four acts of *Macbeth*, how do you notice these two thematic motifs interacting with each other? How do their developments intertwine? In your response discuss a specific scene which speaks to both of these motifs.

3-5 sentences

3b) What do the action and language of the specific scene you chose suggest about how these two ideas are connected in the human experience?

1-2 sentence(s)

Submit your carefully proofread three paragraphs to Turnitin by the due date.

Shakespeare ...

or

Shakespeare's choice to *x* ...

alludes to

alters

asserts

changes

characterizes

clarifies

compares

conjures up

connotes

constrains

construes

contrasts

contributes to

conveys

creates

delineates

demonstrates

depicts

describes

details

differentiates

dispels

documents

elaborates upon

elicits

elucidates

employs

enhances

enunciates

evokes

exemplifies

explains

explores

foreshadows

highlights

hints at

ignites

illustrates

implies

infers

inspires

invokes

is supported by

juxtaposes

maintains

manipulates

notes

portrays

produces

proposes

reflects

refutes

repudiates

reveals

satirizes

shifts

solidifies

specifies

stirs

stresses the

suggests

tackles

transcends

twists