

## Macbeth Word Essay

Rough draft due Tuesday, December 6

Final draft due Friday, December 9



*Macbeth* is a play about opposites. Its language is rich with paradoxes, and as its story unfolds, natural order is reversed and nothing is what it seems. In this 5-paragraph essay, you will explore how a theme relating to opposites is revealed through the repetition of a **single word**.

### Directions:

1. Write an introduction in which you include the title, author, and genre of the work (“In William Shakespeare’s tragedy *Macbeth*...”), a theme (“nothing is what it seems”, “the natural order is reversed”, etc.), and your thesis (“This theme is revealed through the use of paradoxes and the repetition of the word ‘hand’”).
2. In your body paragraphs, you will **support your thesis** using at least 3 quotes from your word journal. Your commentary will explain how these quotes reveal a theme relating to opposites. As you write, consider what your word means in each quote. For example, does **hand** mean friendship or force? Does **blood** signify brotherhood or violence? Does **sleep** mean innocence, comfort, rejuvenation, and peace, or does it mean death? Is **night** associated with love, celebration, reunion, and purification, or with darkness, finality, and isolation? In many quotes, a single word will have multiple, contrasting meanings or connotations.
3. In your conclusion, **restate** (don’t repeat!) your thesis; review the main points of your body paragraphs; and evaluate the importance and/or universality of the theme.

### Requirements:

The final draft of your essay must be neatly typed in MLA format, carefully proofread for errors, and turned in by Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup> along with the rubric (on the reverse side of this page), rough draft, and word journal.