

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Honors English 12

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Period 8

# Macbeth

## Literary Analysis — 100 Points

### Topic Choices:

1. The three witches told Macbeth his fate. Did the events in Macbeth's life occur because of the witches' prophesy or because of the choices he made? Is it a bit of both? What caused Macbeth to fall: fate or free will? Explain the role of free will in the play. Did Macbeth suffer because of his decisions? Explain the role of fate in the play.
2. Lady Macbeth is the most interesting and complex character in the play. She is, in fact, the point on which the action pivots: without her there is no play. To what extent do you agree with this view of *Macbeth*?
3. A tragic hero is a protagonist, usually of noble birth or high-standing, who brings about his own downfall by a choice brought on by a character flaw. Tragic heroes have several other common features: they undergo meaningful suffering, learn from their mistake somehow, and arouse pity or fear in the audience through their demise. Is Macbeth a tragic hero? Explain why or why not.
4. You may also choose to analyze a character of your choice.

#### Possible areas of analysis:

how a character has changed or developed throughout the course of the play

how one character is developed through another character's actions or

how cutting out a minor character would greatly impact the outcome of the play

It is imperative that you reference *Macbeth* in your essay. You do not need to reference outside resources; however, you may include as many as you need to prove your point. Even though this topic is opinion based, the word I should NOT appear in your paper. If you properly support your opinions, you will not be voiceless (remember: it is not what you feel, think or believe; it is what you know that counts — in writing that is.)

## RUBRIC:

### Topic

- Paper maintains a clear focus on the assigned topic 10 points
- Paper includes specific support from *Macbeth* 30 points
- Paper includes properly documented quotations and works cited page (if necessary) 15 points
- Paper includes a clear, precise thesis statement, topic sentences for each paragraph, and an appropriate introduction and conclusion paragraph 15 points

### Focus Correction Areas

- Vary sentence structure throughout the pieces with the use of clauses, phrases, descriptors, and word placements 5 points
- Maintain literary present tense throughout 15 points
- Use transitions to advance the sense of the writing smoothly 5 points
- Use upper level word choices and language 5 points