

Romeo and Juliet Essay: A Research-Based Film Adaptation Evaluation



Assignment: Compose a **three to five-page** research-based film adaptation evaluation essay that critiques two adaptations of Shakespeare's masterpiece, *Romeo and Juliet*: the **1996** version *Romeo + Juliet* and the **1961** version *West Side Story*.

Required Sources: Use **two to four outside sources** (e.g.: online newspaper, magazine, or web page articles) containing the opinions of professional movie critics to either supplement or counter your own opinions about *Romeo + Juliet* and *West Side Story*. The published articles must come from reputable sources—no random blogs or online message boards.

The Process: **STEP #1:** Review your movie notes for each film and select the most important reasons why you liked and/or did not like the 1996 and 1961 film adaptations.

STEP #2: Research! Find two to four reputable outside sources featuring the opinions of professional film critics. Find four quotations total that will **support and/or counter** your own thoughts about the films. Two of these quotations must pertain to *Romeo + Juliet* and two of these quotations must pertain to *West Side Story*.

STEP #3: Fill in an outline that solidifies the arguments of your essay, which requires six quotations total. Two quotations will come from the play, solidifying the core thematic message of Shakespeare's version.* The remaining quotations will come from professional film critics.

STEP #4: Write the rough draft using the outline provided. This draft will go through an editing process to make your final draft polished and perfected.

STEP #5: Polish the final draft and use **mybib.com** to create an accompanying bibliography that cites all of the sources you used in your paper. Create a beautiful, artistic cover as an attachment (e.g.: an original drawing or digital image collage). The paper should be typed: 12-point font, Times New Roman, and double-spaced.

***Enrichment challenge:** For an analytical challenge, analyze how well **both** film adaptations portray the play's *main theme and message*.

IMPORTANT DATES:

In-Class Research and Writing Days: Tuesday, February 25th; Monday, March 3rd; and Wednesday, March 5th

Rough Draft Outline Due: Thursday, March 20th

Peer-Editing Party: Thursday, March 20th

Final Draft, Bibliography, Editing, and Cover Due: Thursday, March 27th

RESEARCH-BASED ESSAY POINT BREAKDOWN

- ✓ Rough Draft Outline – 28 points
- ✓ The Peer-Editing Process – 4 points
- ✓ Final Draft – 120 points
- ✓ Creative Cover – 5 points
- ✓ Bibliography – 5 points

*****TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE—162 points*****

IMPORTANT NOTE:

We will be using “turnitin.com” as a deterrent against plagiarism. If you do not upload your paper to this website, I will not grade your final draft. The final draft must be uploaded to turnitin.com AND submitted to Google Classroom the day it is due for full credit.