

## Romeo and Juliet Compare-Contrast Paper

**Assignment:** Write a paper comparing and/or contrasting Romeo and Juliet. This is a compare-contrast paper, but it is also a character analysis paper. You need to recall what we have learned about literature analysis papers already.

**Step 1:** Read the handout “Taxonomy of Love.” Often when you write a paper on literature, you will need to find outside sources to help you analyze the piece of literature with which you are working. In this case, I have read a psychology book called Colours of Love by John Alan Lee. I have provided a brief summary of the book in the handout—“Taxonomy of Love.”

**Step 2:** Choose what type of love style Romeo uses and what type Juliet uses. You may argue that they are the same. Or you may argue that they are different types.

**Step 3:** Write a thesis. In this thesis argue that because Romeo and Juliet are a certain type of love (whether the same or different) it leads to their tragedy. For example, if you were to argue that both Romeo and Juliet would be classified as Ludus, your thesis would be similar to the following: *Because Romeo and Juliet are both Ludic lovers, they are more apt to become tragic heroes.*

**Step 4:** Once you have a thesis, write two topic sentences. One topic sentence should have the topic of Romeo and the limiting idea should be what type of lover he is. The second topic sentence should have the topic of Juliet, and the limiting idea should be what type of lover she is.

**Step 5:** Write two examples from the story that support each topic sentence.

**Step 6:** Write your body paragraphs. Your body paragraph should follow the TIQA outline:

- I. topic sentence
    - a. introduce quote (set up the context)
    - b. provide the quote or the example
    - c. Provide an analysis of the example -- Here is where you can also quote from the handout to help argue that the quote supports your topic sentence.
  - II. Transition into second quote
    - a. Introduce second quote or paraphrased example
    - b. Provide the quote or the example (be sure to give act, scene, and line number)
    - c. Analyze the quote or example. You may need to refer to the “Taxonomy of Love” handout to analyze your example.
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- I. Juliet is also a \_\_\_\_\_ type of lover; or Juliet, on the other hand, is a \_\_\_\_\_ type of lover.
    - a. Introduce your quote
    - b. Provide the quote or the paraphrased example (be sure to give act, scene, and line number)
    - c. Analyze the quote or example. You may need to refer to the “Taxonomy of Love” handout to analyze your example.
  - II. Transition into your second quote or example
    - a. introduce your quote
    - b. Provide the quote or the paraphrased example (be sure to give act, scene, and line number)
    - c. Analyze the quote or example. You may need to refer to the “Taxonomy of Love” handout to analyze your example.

**Step 7:** Write your introduction. Begin with an attention getter. Remember you may begin using a rhetorical question or a shocking statement.

**3 parts to an introduction:**

1. attention getter
2. essential information
  - a. Author's full name – William Shakespeare
  - b. Title of piece of literature – The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet  
(remember that titles of plays are underlined).
  - c. brief plot summary. This summary should lead to your thesis.
3. Thesis (which you already have written)

**Step 8:** In the fourth paragraph wrap up your argument. You are arguing that Romeo and Juliet are tragic heroes because of their loving styles. If you need to remember what a tragic hero is, look in your textbook—(look at page 860).

**Conclusion**

1. restate your thesis
2. Conclude by wrapping up the argument that what you have proven in the body paragraphs supports an argument that they are tragic.

**Step 9:** When you have all four paragraphs written, type them in proper order.

**Important to remember:**

- Attention-getter begins your introduction
- Your thesis is your last sentence in your first paragraph.
- Each of the two body paragraphs should have a topic sentence.
- Plays are underlined, so when you are talking about the play, you should write The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet.
- Double space throughout entire paper.
- Press spacebar twice after every end punctuation mark (periods., question marks?, and exclamation marks!)
- Proofread your papers, so that you don't make any silly mistakes.
- Put your quote into context. **Example:** Juliet says, "A cup, closed in my true love's hand?" (V.iii.161).
- When quoting from Shakespeare, you do not put the page number as we did in "Cask of Amontillado." Rather, you use Act #, scene #, and line numbers.
- Also, you use a forward slash to indicate different lines (/). **Example:**  
After Juliet wakes from her death-like sleep she says, "What's here? A cup, closed in my true love's hand?/ Poison, I see hath been his timeless end" (V.iii.161 – 162).
- Your quotes should not go longer than 3 lines of text. If it does, you need to see me about doing block quotes.