

Essay Organization

How to structure an essay

Introductory paragraph

First paragraph

1. Hook
2. Background + summary
3. Thesis (last!)

Introduction

What does a man have to be like to earn the nickname “Prince of Cats”? He would be sneaky and sly, smooth and catlike. His personality sets him up as one of the feistiest characters in William Shakespeare’s play, *Romeo and Juliet*. In the prologue we learn that Romeo and Juliet die tragically because of the hatred between their families. Even more than the feud, though, Juliet’s cousin Tybalt is to blame for the young lovers’ deaths. If it were not for Tybalt’s relation to Juliet, his tendency toward fighting, and his rebellion against authority, *Romeo and Juliet* would not have died so tragically.

Body paragraph

***Topic sentence**

#1 Quote/Detail

-Analysis (explain why significant)

#2 Quote/Detail

-Analysis (explain why significant)

Transition (clincher)

Body 1

***Tybalt's blood relationship with the Capulet family gives him the "opportunity" for guilt regarding the deaths of Romeo and Juliet.** From the opening fight scene of the play, Tybalt involves himself in the feud. #1 **Tybalt hates "hell, all Montagues, and {Benvolio}" (Shakespeare, 1,1,73).** If Tybalt were not related to Juliet, if he were born of a different family, then he would not be involved in all this feuding business. He would not have any reason to hate the Montagues, who as it turns out are related to Romeo, Juliet's new husband. Even in his encounters with Romeo, Tybalt is saucy. #2 **"Romeo, " Tybalt says, "the love I bear thee can afford no better term than this, thou art a villain" (3,1,63).** The only reason Tybalt hates Romeo is because he belongs to the family of his archenemy. If Romeo were from another family, Tybalt would not hate him. The same would be true if Tybalt were from another family. **When it comes down to it, Tybalt's membership in the Capulet family leaves him blameworthy and only encourages his fighting tendencies.**

Body 2

Tybalt cannot stay away from a **fight**, especially when he feels his family has been dishonored. At his parents' very own party, Tybalt was ready and willing to start a brawl. "Uncle, this is a Montague, our feud, a villain that is hither come in spite to scorn at our solemnity this night" (1.5,69-72). The Capulets are important figures in the society, yet Tybalt does not seem to understand his role. He shows his immaturity in his willingness to fight Romeo in the middle of a party. The fun would stop, and everything would be ruined, all because of his tendency towards fighting. Even after the third civil brawl when the Prince laid down the new rules and threatened the lives of the family heads, Tybalt had the nerve to send a letter to Romeo challenging him to a duel. Had Tybalt not sent this letter of challenge, then Mercutio would not have taken him up on the offer. Mercutio would not have died, and Romeo would not have killed Tybalt out of revenge. It was Tybalt's **foolish fighting** that knocked over the domino that eventually led to Romeo and Juliet's deaths. **If only he had listened to the people in charge, none of this would have happened. (transition to P 3)*

Conclusion

Restate thesis
Winding down
Strong closing line
(Call to action)

Conclusion

No one person can hold all the blame for the deaths of Romeo and Juliet. That said, Tybalt holds a special position of guilt. *Romeo and Juliet would not have died so tragically if Tybalt had not been related to Juliet and would not have been brainwashed into the feud. The intensity of this feud fueled his desire to *fight the Montagues and grew in him an arrogance against *authority. All of these qualities and more made Tybalt the perfect spark. He lit the wick, and the explosion followed soon after. “The Prince of Cats.” “The Gentleman of the First House.” The Captain of Compliments.” Villain. Call him whatever you wish, but Romeo and Juliet died because of Tybalt.