

## *The Tragedy of Macbeth—Final Essay Topics*

Choose one of the following essay topics and compose a literary analysis essay in response. Your essay should follow the proper format of a thorough essay (introduction, body paragraphs, conclusion) and should be well-written, thoughtful, and free from errors. Be sure to include textual references, including summary, quotations, and paraphrase. We will schedule some teacher-student conferences if you would like one.

1. Analyze Lady Macbeth's character. Consider the effect she has on other characters as well as the play as a whole; also consider her relationship to the major theme of the play that things are not always what they seem.
2. Analyze the role of the Witches in the play. Consider what they might symbolize as well as how and why they use their powers to affect Macbeth. Would Macbeth have met the same end without the Witches' interference?
3. Analyze how Shakespeare uses motifs throughout the play to help develop the various themes. Consider how each motif affects or reflects characters or events in the story as well as the plot itself.
4. In his struggle to gain and hold the crown of Scotland, Macbeth is driven from one foul deed to another. Analyze the most significant deeds and their effects on Macbeth and other characters.
5. Analyze Macbeth's role as a tragic hero. Is Macbeth a pawn of Fate or an agent of free will? In other words, who is to blame for Macbeth's downfall? Is it completely his fault or are there other factors, such as his wife or the three witches?
6. Analyze the role of women in the play. Consider to what extent women are portrayed as manipulative and wicked or as good and virtuous. Also consider what Shakespeare might have been trying to say about women in his time period.