

Macbeth Essay Prompt

Write an 800-1000 word essay on one of the following topics. Your paper must include at least three citations from the play. Standard formatting guidelines apply. Outline is required.

1. There are several instances of sexual role-reversals in Macbeth. Macbeth and Lady Macbeth embody stereotypical characteristics of the opposite sex. Do these characters fit into these opposing stereotypes or not? How do they fit into or differ from the stereotypes of men (e.g. greedy, murderous, courageous, etc.) or women (e.g. frightened, weak, dependent, etc.)? How does Macduff function as a man who restores the gender balance in the play?
2. Kinship and lineage play an important role in Macbeth. How does the "lineage issue" of Macbeth, Banquo, Macduff, and Duncan drive their respective actions? What choices are made towards their own lineage and that of others? How does Malcom's ascension to the throne represent a restoration and healing of the proper lineage?