Response Essay #1

Ideas for Writing

1. Evaluate the different responses of Macbeth and Banquo to the witches’ greeting. Consider the reactions of the two men to the witches’ greeting.
2. Analyze Banquo’s speech to Macbeth (1.3.134-138), beginning with words “’tis strange.” What is revealed about Banquo’s and Macbeth’s character from this speech?
3. Analyze the details of the letter Macbeth sends to Lady Macbeth. What do the words reveal about their relationship?
4. Choose any speech to analyze.
5. Analyze how Shakespeare’s writing reveals his own culture by analyzing an early modern primary document.
6. Contrast the early modern ideas of hospitality, a cultural trust, with the Macbeths’ treatment of King Duncan when he comes to visit.
7. Analyze how Lady Macbeth uses manipulation to persuade Macbeth to kill Duncan.
8. Analyze Duncan’s role in the play. Based on what you know about him so far, is he a good king?
9. Look for “asides” in Act I – analyze how Shakespeare changes the tone of the play by choosing to have Macbeth speak to the audience, rather than to another character on stage.
10. Trace a theme, such as trust, throughout the play so far. How do the characters define this theme?