Response Essay #2

Ideas for Writing

1. Analyze a theme Shakespeare develops in Act II, supporting your idea with examples from primary documents and/or *Macbeth*.
2. Compare Lady Macbeth’s Soliloquy (1.5.45-61) to her remarks about her father (2.2.16-17). How has regicide changed her?
3. Macbeth’s mind begins unraveling even before he kills Duncan. Show evidence of his descent into his own hell.
4. Write about the line, “Macbeth doth murder sleep” (2.2.47-48). Analyze what else is murdered in Macbeth’s world besides Duncan.
5. How do symbols, such as the dagger or the diamond, help us understand the play at a deeper level?
6. Analyze the porter’s speech and demonstrate how this is funny as well as why Shakespeare placed this scene between the murder and its uncovering.
7. Analyze the various reactions to Duncan’s murder.
8. How does King Duncan’s role in the play align with early modern thinking about kingship?
9. Find evidence of pathetic fallacy. How does the disruption of nature as a mirror of man’s evil impact the play?
10. Choose any document from Act II and explain how the content is still relevant today.