Final TPEQEA: Sample for *The Tragedy of Macbeth*

**TPEQEA** is a writing strategy that will help you to write clear and concise paragraphs. By using TPEQEA when you write you will be better prepared to answer essay questions and write clear, well-supported papers. This should follow MLA format.

1. Gather your thoughts around a topic that is repeated in the play. Use what you remember, what you notice, and look back at the text. Please do not use the example below.

**Fathers and Sons relationship**

Witches

* Prophecy, inheritance, seeming good news for Macbeth has teeth with this after thought.
* “Thou get kings, though thou be none.”

Duncan and his sons

* Heredity, lineage, danger, suspects, heavenly imagery
* “The nearer in blood, the nearer bloody.”

Banquo and Fleance

* protective, ancestor of the king watching the play, King James
* “Fly, Fleance, fly!”

Macbeth

* Not a father, fear of future, no
* “unlineal hand” “barren scepter in my gripe”
* Why did I give up my “eternal jewel”, my soul, to make “the seeds of Banquo kings?”
* The land becomes barren when Macbeth is king too.

Macduff and his son,

* Tender, blindsided, loyal
* “Is my father a traitor?”
* “I’ll dispute it like a man.”
* “All my pretty ones and their dam?”

Malcom

* rightful king restored, promise for future prosperity
* heavenly imagery

2. Look at what you have gathered and see if you see any patterns. Most likely, you will not use everything that you gather.

3. Decide on an angle, and let the TPEQEA strategy below help you refine your perspective and support your claim.

**TPEQEA**

**Writing Format**

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| **Name** | **# of Sentences** | **Function** |
| **Topic Sentence** | **1** | **General, broad introductory sentence** |
| **Point** | **1** | **Specific, focused sentence** |
| **Example** | **1-3** | **An example that illustrates the point** |
| **Quote(s)** | **1-3** | **Direct quote(s) from the text which support(s) your point** |
| **Elaboration** | **3-5** | **Explain the point/quote/example** |
| **Analysis** | **2-5** | **Take it further; how does this impact society; why do we care? So, what?** |

4. Write it.

In the play *The Tragedy of Macbeth*, healthy relationships between fathers and sons contrast with the infertility of the main character, Macbeth. After murdering Duncan, Shakespeare uses imagery of impotence to show Macbeth’s realization that his “genius has been rebuked” (3.1.55). “Genius” in this instance refers to the ability to produce, coming from the root “gen” meaning to produce, to create, to give birth to. His potency has been cut off by a higher authority, Banquo’s seed, the fulfillment of the witches’ prophecy. Too late he becomes fully conscious that he has traded his soul, his “eternal jewel” for a “barren scepter . . . no son of mine succeeding.” He wears a “fruitless crown,” a frustration that leads him toward his next victims and foreshadows the withering of both the Scottish countryside and the vigor of its society (3.1.60-64).

As Macbeth imagines the sons of his closest allies as a threat, his murderous pace keeps tempo with his increasingly paranoid visions. Macbeth mutters to himself after Duncan names Malcolm heir to the throne that the Prince of Cumberland is “a step on which he must fall down or else o’erleap, for in [his] way it lies” (1.4.49-50). Although Fleance is younger than Malcolm, Macbeth sees him as a rival of great magnitude because he could satisfy the witches’ prophecy that Banquo will beget kings, thou he will not be one himself. Therefore, he hires murderers willing to kill both father and son, unsuccessful though they turn out to be. Once Macbeth realizes that he will father no children, his brutal pace escalates from murdering a friend, to a child, to an entire household. Duncan’s generosity in naming his son heir, Banquo’s self-sacrificial warning to his son, and Macduff’s tender expression of grief after losing his family highlight Macbeth’s debased motives. Even Macbeth realizes how far he has fallen as he faces the vengeful father, Macduff. “My sword is too much charged with blood of thine already” (5.7.5-6).  *I carry the guilt of taking your family; turn away from me*, Macbeth is saying, unaware that Macduff’s sword will dispense justice for each family and an entire nation.