

High School English Semester Final

Response to Literature Essay

After reading "Taming of the Shrew" you will choose **one** of the following prompts to write a multi-paragraph response to literature essay. Use the organizer provided to map out your essay before you start writing.

1. Marriage Then and Now

Compare the institution of marriage in Shakespeare's day with modern marriage. In what ways are courtship and marriage expectations, roles and rituals similar then and now? In what ways are they different? Consider the purpose of marriage: Has it changed much in the past five centuries? How do money, social status and love factor into the choice of a spouse?

2. Process of Domestication

Explore the ways in which Petruchio goes about "taming" Katherine. How does he assert his control over her? Katherine is clearly a person of independent spirit, so why does she eventually submit to the humiliation? Consider Petruchio's motivation: Why does he find it necessary to have Katherine conform to a stereotypical wifely role? In what ways does a domestication process occur in modern-day relationships? Could Petruchio's techniques be used today, or are they implausible in modern society?

3. Appearance and Identity

Many characters in the play assume different identities. Using examples from the play, explore the relationship between appearance and reality. Why do characters pretend to be someone they are not? Do the disguises ultimately help the characters achieve their goals? In what ways are "disguises" used today? What impact does outward appearance have on our perception and treatment of others? Can people change who they are by altering their outward appearance? Consider sayings such as "The clothes make the man," "You can run but you can't hide" or "You can take the boy out of the country, but you can't take the country out of the boy."

I. Introductory Paragraph

Title, genre and author _____

Background (**brief** summary of the play)

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Thesis statement:

II . Body Paragraphs

1. Topic sentence- Main idea of paragraph

Quote and/or example from the play to support your main idea:

Explanation that ties the quote or example with the main idea of the paragraph.

2. Topic sentence- Main idea of paragraph

Quote and/or example from the play to support your main idea:

Explanation that ties the quote or example with the main idea of the paragraph.

3. Topic sentence- Main idea of paragraph

Quote and/or example from the play to support your main idea:

Explanation that ties the quote or example with the main idea of the paragraph.

4. Topic sentence- Main idea of paragraph

Quote and/or example from the play to support your main idea:

Explanation that ties the quote or example with the main idea of the paragraph.

III. Concluding Paragraph

Restatement of thesis statement

Summary of main points:

An empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for a student's reflection or connection to the play.

Personal reflection or connection to the play that provides a feeling of closure;

A second empty rectangular box with a thin black border, identical to the first one, for a student's reflection or connection to the play.