

Romeo and Juliet Who is to Blame?

In *Romeo and Juliet*, the characters' motives and actions lead to the death of multiple people. Although you may argue that many characters are to blame for the tragic events, you may feel that one character is to blame more than another. For your final assessment, you will choose one character to place the blame upon and write a persuasive speech to convince your audience members that the character is ultimately the one who should take the brunt of the blame and be punished most severely. When deciding who is MOST responsible for the events' outcomes, consider the following "crimes" or "wrong-doings" that characters have committed:

- Lying to parents
- Killing someone for revenge
- Two families having a feud
- Selling poison
- Killing someone in self-defense
- Killing someone by mistake while fighting
- Crashing a Party
- Marrying against parents' wishes
- Picking a fight
- Being impulsive and acting upon emotion
- Performing a marriage ceremony without consent
- Punishing Crimes with Death and/or banishment
- Covering up a lie to save your own reputation
- Mixing up an important message
- Giving someone the finger
- Confusing lust with love and rushing in to relationships too quickly
- Hitting/yelling at a child
- Failing to listen to and attempt to understand a child's desires and opinions
- Being too prideful (both families/Tybalt)
- Any other wrong-doings you can think of!

Once you have determined who is most responsible for the tragedy, you will write a three to four paragraph speech in which you use evidence from the play, along with emotional and logical appeal, to convince your audience that the character you have chosen is to blame. It might also be wise to reflect upon the opposition and address the counterargument(s) to be fully persuasive. Within your writing, you should also make sure to include parenthetical citations. You will turn the written portion in the day you present your speech!

Your speech will be due Tuesday of next week. (May 26, 2015).