Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_



*Macbeth* Timed Write

**Honors English 10**

On a separate sheet of paper, respond to one the following

prompts in essay format. Plan an essay that includes an

introduction with a clear thesis statement, body

paragraphs with evidence and analysis, and a thoughtful

conclusion.

You will have one hour to plan and write your essay.

“A” essays will include:

* Introduction, body, conclusion
* A clear thesis statement
* Thoughtful, eloquent, non-repetitive analysis
* Well-chosen and well-placed evidence (does not have to be a direct quotation) that flows with the rest of your body paragraphs
* Fluid transitions within and between paragraphs
* A direct response to the prompt
* References to specific characters and events in the plot
* Control of grammar and mechanics
* Academic vocabulary and use of literary terminology
* References to the beginning, middle, and end of the novel

“A” essays will not include:

* Analysis that is simply a summary or paraphrase
* Grammatical and mechanical errors
* “This means,” “This matters,” “This is important because,” “What I think they’re trying to say is,” “In my opinion…”
* Second person pronouns (you, your)
1. Write a well-developed essay discussing society’s influence of gender-roles and the expectations we have for men and women. Use examples from *Macbeth* and its characters to demonstrate conflicts that occur when people do not fulfill the gender-role expectations society has imposed. You may also discuss whether or not these gender roles are still relevant today, or if our modern society no longer needs them. Use examples from *Macbeth,* current events, or other articles we have read. (You may choose to focus on gender roles for both men and women, or only on femininity or masculinity. It’s your choice.)
2. Write a well-developed essay that analyzes the idea of ambition, Macbeth’s fatal flaw. Is ambition a positive or a negative trait? How did it affect Macbeth, Lady Macbeth, and other characters in the novel? How did characters react to ambition differently? How does it continue to play a role in our society, especially in American culture? Use examples from *Macbeth,* current events, or other articles we have read.
3. Write a well-developed essay on the character of Lady Macbeth. Discuss the way Shakespeare explores the balance between gender and power with her character. You may discuss the way she changes throughout the play, or pose a theory as to what it is that ultimately causes her downfall. What is Shakespeare trying to prove with her character?

*Disclaimer: If I cannot easily identify your thesis statement in the introduction of your essay, the highest grade you can earn is a D.*