

## 5 Paragraph Position Essay—*Romeo and Juliet*

### **Prompt:**

In Act 3, Scene 1, Tybalt killed Mercutio by thrusting his sword beneath Romeo's arm, just as Romeo was attempting to stop their fight. This murder caused anger to rise within Romeo, and in an act of revenge, he killed Tybalt. Some people believe the old saying, "An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth." These people believe that Romeo was right in taking the law into his own hands. On the other hand, others believe that Romeo should have reported the situation to authorities. The Prince should have been the person to punish Tybalt.

Answer this question: *is it okay for a person to take the law into his or her own hands?*

### **Assignment:**

Write a 5 paragraph essay, taking a position on this issue. Your essay will be evaluated on the evidence it provides of your ability to express judgments by taking a position, maintaining a focus on the topic, organizing your ideas, using a counterargument, and applying language clearly and effectively.

#### Paragraph 1: Hook

Restate the prompt-tell what you're writing about  
Preview sentence(s), providing 3 main points for support  
Thesis statement

#### Paragraph 2 (1<sup>st</sup> Body Paragraph):

Restate first main point  
Provide examples, details, reasons  
Use Ethos – Credibility / Ethics / Moral Character  
Transition

#### Paragraph 3 (2<sup>nd</sup> Body Paragraph)

Restate second main point  
Provide examples, details, reasons  
Use Logos – Logic  
Transition

#### Paragraph 4 (3<sup>rd</sup> Body Paragraph-counterargument)

"Some people believe \_\_\_\_\_, however \_\_\_\_\_."  
Use your third main point to refute the counterargument.  
Provide examples, details, reasons  
Use Pathos - Emotion

#### Paragraph 5 (Conclusion)

Restate your thesis  
Restate your main points  
End strong