

Rebellion and Rebelliousness in "Romeo and Juliet"

Background for this essay:

Rebellion and rebelliousness are major political and personal issues in this play.

The head of a kingdom (here, the Prince) and the head of a family (for example, Capulet) need to maintain order, to avoid anarchy.

Individual people need to control their passions and emotions, in order to avoid making disastrous choices.

One of the first political appearances of this theme is in I, i, 80

("Rebellious subjects, enemies to peace"). It appears within the Capulet family and reappears so very many times (see, for example, Capulet to Tybalt: "He shall be endured./ What, good man boy! I say he shall." [I, v, 78-79]

And of course it appears in such major characters as Juliet, for example in her "Prodigious birth of love it is to me/ That I must love a loathed enemy." [I, v, 141-142].

How to earn points:

1. For the essay, you will earn up to seventy points for showing that the theme runs through the play.
2. You will earn up to another fifteen points for showing how that theme affects political events (look at what the Prince does and says; what the priest does and says; what Benvolio does and says).
3. You will earn up to another fifteen points for showing how that theme affects personal events and choices. You might find it useful to compare the choices of a couple of characters.

You will gain or lose points for meaning, development, organization, style, and conventions in each section.

Remember to send your essay to <Turnitin.com> by the due time.