

Building an Essay



INTRODUCTION

Sentence 1: What is the text about?

Sentence 2: What does the text/writer do?

Sentence 3: How is this done (in response to the question)? Why?

How does Shakespeare present ambition in the play *Macbeth*?

Method

1. Text name + writer's name + idea
2. Writer's name + adverb + verb + idea
3. Idea + method



The play *Macbeth* is about the consequences of unchecked ambition. Through the characters of Macbeth and Lady Macbeth, Shakespeare expertly presents the idea that ambition is a dangerous and uncontrollable force that will ultimately lead to both physical and psychological torment. Throughout the play, ambition is presented as the moral downfall of both characters and is revealed through Macbeth's struggle with his own morality and his descent into violence, cruelty and duplicity.

MAIN BODY

□ Main body point

Writer's name + adverb + verb + idea

Shakespeare expertly presents the drastic change in Macbeth from a brave and respected soldier to someone who is corrupted by his inner desire to be King.

□ Introducing and embedding a quotation

Context + quotation

Context prompts = what is being described; who is speaking; when; who to; why; what about?

In Act 1 Scene 3, Macbeth contemplates both the witches' prophecy and his newly gained title. Macbeth's inner thoughts are presented through a soliloquy and after hearing that he has been named Thane of Cawdor, he refers to the witches' influence as 'supernatural soliciting'.

□ Analysing method

Name the device or word type + verb + analysis

The use of the verb 'soliciting' implies that he has obtained dark forces from the witches.

□ Adding a tentative interpretation

Tentative phrase + writer's name + verb + interpretation

It is possible that Shakespeare is suggesting that the witches have exposed his fatal flaw and set Macbeth's downfall into motion.

□ Layering interpretation

Connective + 2nd interpretation

In addition, Macbeth's own reference to the 'supernatural' shows that he is aware that his thoughts and potential act of regicide go against nature and will ultimately align him with the dark forces represented by the witches.

□ Linking ideas

Linking phrase + verb + additional idea / method + repetition of keywords or methods

This idea is further highlighted through the use of the sibilance created through the repeated 's' sound which evokes a sinister and haunting feel. It is this use of sibilance which further suggests that Macbeth has already been psychologically and morally corrupted.



Essay Companion

Developing a Response:

What is your idea? What is your response?

What is the evidence to back this up?

What can you infer from the evidence?

How is your idea shown in the evidence?

How does the writer use techniques / language / structure?

How does this link back to your initial idea?

Why did the writer use this? Why did they want to show this? Why did they choose to present it in this way?



Verbs to show analysis and interpretation:

This reveals/ suggests/
implies/depicts/conveys/
emphasises/reinforces/
highlights/ portrays /presents /
depicts

Verbs to show writer's intention:

Critiques / subverts / presents /
warns / challenges / explores /
questions / considers / examines

Tentative Phrases:

Perhaps the writer's aim is to...
It's possible the writer wants us
to understand ...
It may be that..
It could be argued that...
It is likely...
The writer probably...
It seems that...
This might suggest...

Words to discuss the effect on the reader/audience:

- Shocked
- Disturbed
- Compelled
- Engaged
- Guilty
- Compassion
- Relief
- Anger
- A sense of injustice
- Intrigued
- This provokes
- This induces
- This forces

Assertive Phrases:

The writer conveys/presents/contrasts/
implies/indicates/
creates/reveals
It's clear that the use of....shows how...
By using a the writer shows how ...
By using ... the writer is forcing the reader to...
This would be particularly powerful to an
...reader
The writer would have been influenced by...

Words to show a developed interpretation and to link ideas:

In addition, the use of a ...
Furthermore, the use of a ... develops the idea
of...
This idea is further strengthened by the use of...
Alternatively, the use of...could also show...
This idea could be linked to...
Perhaps the writer's aim is to...
The writer is obviously trying to...
Another interpretation...is...

Discussing method:

The most important word is...
Consequently ...
By using a...the writer creates the impression
of...
In particular, the use of...
The word...conveys...
A...has been used to highlight...

Adverbs:

Cleverly, accurately, clearly,
ironically, effectively,
undoubtedly, above all,
notable, especially,
significantly, expertly