

## English IV Honors

### ***Macbeth* Essay – “Freedom” Song Character Analysis: Lady Macbeth or Macbeth?**

*Django Unchained*, a 2012 American western film written and directed by Quentin Tarantino takes place in America's pre-Civil War South. Despite its dark subject matter (relatively graphic depictions of America's 1800s slave trade) and brutal violence, the film was a major success. Quentin Tarantino's characters can be compared to William Shakespeare's characters in his tragic play, *Macbeth* who are psychologically trapped in self-delusions, compulsive behavior, ambition, and unrealistic hope and sleep deprivation. William Shakespeare's primary genius is similar to Tarantino's in his ability to develop compelling characters that transcend the environment in which they are implanted. The lyrics to the song, “Freedom” in *Django Unchained* resonate deep chords of problems, conflicts and all human experience.

Listen and read along to the song, “Freedom” by Anthony Hamilton.

The lyrics of this song could easily be sung by Macbeth or Lady Macbeth at different times throughout Shakespeare's great tragedy. Become a partner with the great dramatist in creating meaning and imagination in your interpretation and understanding of these lyrics in context to the play, *Macbeth*.

- I. **While listening to the song**, “Freedom”, consider which character in William Shakespeare's play, *Macbeth* would sing this song.
- II. **After listening** to the song, in a group (maximum of 4) discuss and develop the argument: which character might this song, “Freedom” be applied to and why. Analyze how the lyrics connect and can be applied to your chosen character.
- III. **Make the connection on your own - For homework:** Analyze how the lyrics connect and can be applied to your chosen character.

Compose a well thought out MLA style essay, explaining who in your opinion, would most likely sing this song, when and why. Annotate the lyrics to the song, and for each stanza find at least one example from the play to prove why your chosen character might sing this song. Copy the quote from the play (include MLA style in-text citation)\*.

For full credit you are required to give support ; MLA style (quote: Act, verse, line) from the primary source (*Macbeth* by William Shakespeare). In addition, you are required to give secondary support from one Gale source and one additional academic secondary source.

\*Note: In-text MLA formatting for a play: Cite the act, scene and line numbers (2.1.115 – 117).

In poetic or musical quotes *less than four lines*, include the line numbers (1 – 2) and put a slash (/) between the lines to mark the line break:

In "The Poem," when William Carlos Williams writes, "It's all in/the sound" (1-2), he is arguing for the lyrical quality of words.

### The *Macbeth* Character Analysis Essay Format

1. **The Opening Paragraph - Introduction**

Begin with a universal statement. Identify the play, state its playwright and type of play. Provide a brief plot summary; and a transition to your thesis, which includes the name of the song and its composer. Interpret the song, what is its meaning. Your opening paragraph should gain your reader's attention and lastly identify the thesis of your analysis. (who would most likely sing this song – Macbeth or Lady Macbeth?)

2. **Support of Thesis** ( 3 – 4 Paragraphs)

Transition / topic sentence

Statement Answers the question: Why would they most likely sing this song?

Example(s) (from primary source – the play)

Quotation(s) (from primary source – the play)

Literary Critique / commentary (from secondary source)

Paraphrase or quotations (from secondary source)

Summary

Commentary / Explanation of how it relates to the song. (direct quotes from song)

Transition / topic sentence

Statement : Answers the question: Why would they most likely sing this song?

Example(s) (from primary source – the play)

Quotation(s) (from primary source – the play)

Literary Critique / commentary (from secondary source)

Paraphrase or quotations (from secondary source)

Summary

Commentary / Explanation of how it relates to the song. (direct quotes from song)

Transition / topic sentence

Statement : Answers the question: When would they most likely sing this song?

Example(s) (from primary source – the play)

Quotation(s) (from primary source – the play)

Literary Critique / commentary (from secondary source)

Paraphrase or quotations (from secondary source)

Summary

Commentary / Explanation of how it relates to the song. (direct quotes from song)

3. **Conclusion** (1 paragraph) Final paragraph

Echo the thesis without repeating the words verbatim.

The conclusion should:

Give your opinion about the value or significance of this song and how it applies to the chosen character.

Give a personal statement about the topic and connect back to your creative opening.

**\*Note:** Each point of the thesis should be supported by at least one example and one quotation from the primary source (the play, Macbeth) and one critique (secondary source). Two different secondary sources must be used: One secondary source must be from Gale and the other secondary source must be an academically acceptable source. These may be presented as paraphrases, summaries, or quotations.

Twelve (12) Internal references must be included (parenthetical citations): 4 primary – Macbeth + 4 secondary + direct 4 quotes from the lyrics of “Freedom”.

## ESSAY REQUIREMENTS

1. Your paper should: have one-inch margins, be word processed in **size 12 font, Times New Roman and doubled spaced** (including quotations, parenthetical citations, and the list of works cited).
  2. The research paper should be a minimum of **five to six paragraphs** in length.
  3. **Heading and Title: Your research paper does not need a title page.** At the top of the first page, at the left-hand margin, type your name, your instructor's name, the course name and number, and the date : (11 March 2013)—all on separate, double-spaced lines. Then double-space again and center the title above your text. (If your title requires more than one line, double-space between the lines.) Double-space again before beginning your text. The title should be neither underlined nor written in all capital letters. Capitalize only the first, last, and principal words of the title. Titles might end with a question mark or an exclamation mark if that is appropriate, but not in a period.
  4. **Number all the pages** consecutively in the upper right-hand corner, one-half inch from the top of the paper. Type your last name before the page number.
  5. Parenthetical citations - a minimum of twelve (12) Internal references must be included (parenthetical citations) (two different secondary sources to be used – one Gale and on other academic source)  
4 primary – *Macbeth* + 4 secondary + 4 direct quotes from the lyrics of “Freedom”.
- Note: When citing poetry and song lyrics use line numbers in the parenthetical citations. If you quote more than three lines use block style/single spaced.

Go to this link for examples of how to correctly cite from Shakespeare: <http://www.colby.edu/personal/l/leosborn/quotes.html>

6. Include a **Works Cited** page using the MLA (Modern Language Association) which includes a minimum of two academic sources (one Gale) and *Macbeth* and the song, “Freedom”.

Cite the song, “Freedom” in your works cited page as follows:

Hamilton, Anthony “Freedom”(Feat. Elayna Boynton) From the “Django” (2012) soundtrack

7. Use formal writing style, **avoiding first and second person and contractions.**

### Helpful Online Resources:

Citation Machine

<http://www.citationmachin.net/index2.php>

Purdue University Online Writing Lab:

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

Duke University Library:

<http://www.lib.duke.edu/libguide/cite/MLA.htm>

Cornell University Library Citation Management

<http://www.library.cornell.edu/resrch/citmanage/mla>

Cambridge Dictionary Online:

<http://dictionary.cambridge.org/>

Merriam Webster Dictionary Online:

<http://www.merriam-webster.com/>

Discovery: Introduction to Shakespeare:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XAJhI1k86uU&feature=youtu.be>

MH Daon

Open Source Shakespeare (Includes Shakespeare's Concordance):  
<http://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/>

Shakespeare Online:  
<http://www.shakespeare-online.com/>  
<http://www.shakespeare-online.com/plays/macbethscenes.html>

No Fear Shakespeare:  
<http://nfs.sparknotes.com/macbeth/>