***Romeo and Juliet* Final Essay**

Select ONE of the following bold-faced topics for your final reflection on *Romeo and Juliet*.

**I. Romeo and Juliet tells the story of two young lovers who fall deeply in love and do everything they can to be together. Compare and contrast the actions of this couple with those of typical teenagers we see today in America or in recent works of literature (*The Fault in Our Stars*, *If I Stay*, etc.).**

Possible topics to consider in your analysis (feel free to add your own):

i. What are the common dating practices of each time period?

ii. How do the different cultures affect dating norms?

iii. How does age play a role in decision-making?

iv. How much parental involvement is expected in a dating relationship? What acceptable behavior if parents and children do not see eye to eye?

v. Besides family grudges, what are other reasons two young lovers would be forbidden from being together?

**II. William Shakespeare is very intentional about how he shapes each character in the play so that each plays an integral role in the tragedy that ensues. Analyze the personality traits of 2-4 characters in Romeo and Juliet and explain how their unique traits contributed to the tragedy of the play.**

Possible characters to consider in your analysis (feel free to add your own):

Romeo Juliet Lord Capulet Benvolio Tybalt The Friar Mercutio The Nurse

**III. Many have debated whether the tragedy of Romeo and Juliet was a result of fate or freewill. Some argue that the stars were lined against them from the beginning while others say that the actions of various characters were to blame. What do you believe?**

a. (Fate) Discuss examples of foreshadowing and dramatic irony seen throughout the play that reinforce this theme.

b. (Freewill) Discuss the characterization and actions of characters that directly impacted the ending of the play.