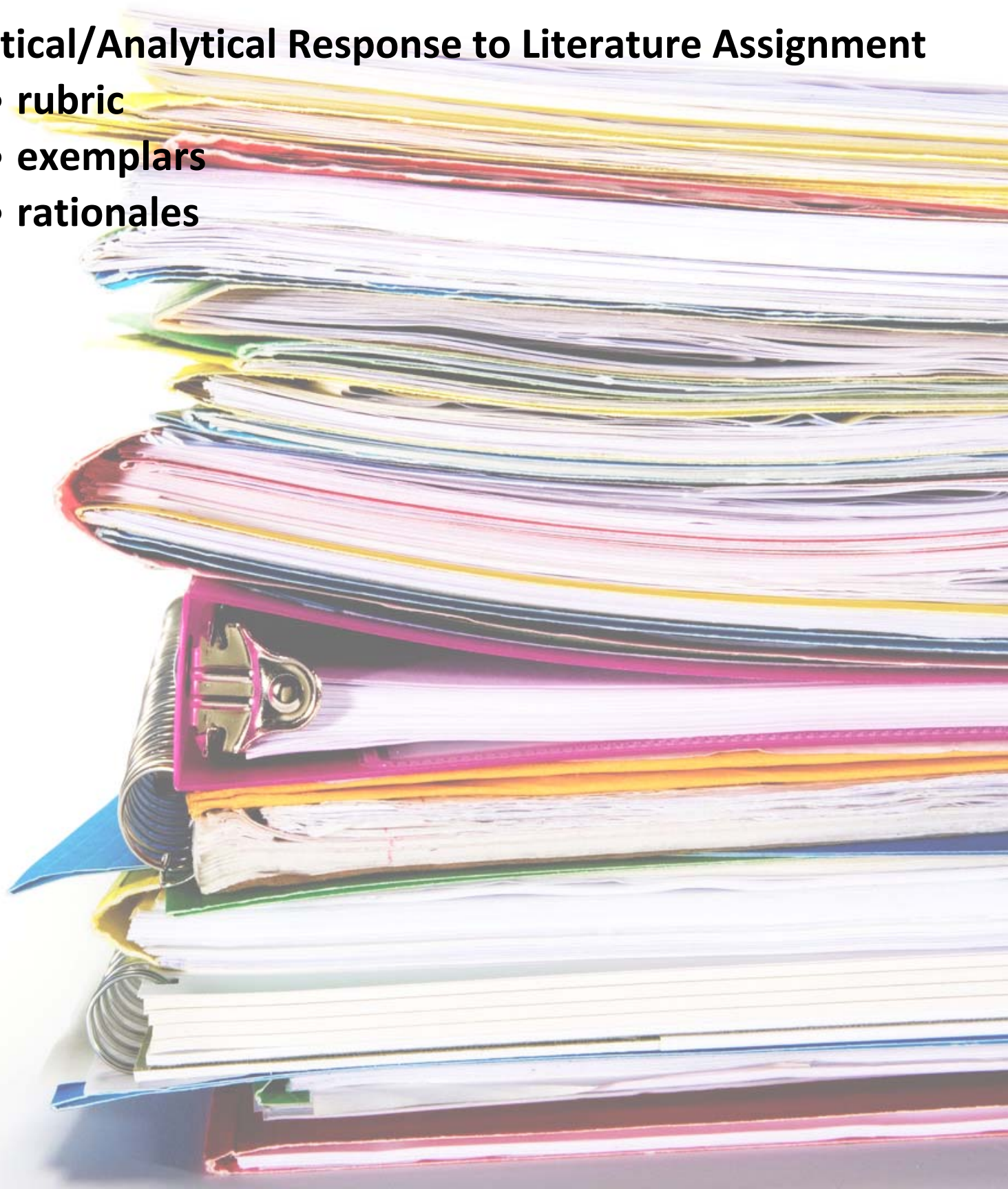


Critical/Analytical Response to Literature Assignment

- rubric
- exemplars
- rationales



"What idea does the author develop regarding ruling passion?"

SCORE	X 5	X 5	X 4	X 3	X 3
	THOUGHT and UNDERSTANDING	SUPPORTING EVIDENCE	FORM and STRUCTURE	MATTERS of CHOICE	MATTERS of CORRECTNESS
FOCUS	∞ how effectively the student's ideas relate to the assignment ∞ the quality of the literary interpretations and understanding	∞ the selection and quality of evidence ∞ how well the supporting evidence is employed , developed , and synthesized to support the student's ideas	∞ a coherent, focused, and shaped arrangement and discussion in response to the assignment ∞ a unifying effect or a controlling idea that is developed and maintained	∞ diction ∞ choices of syntactic structures ∞ the extent to which stylistic choices contribute to the creation of voice	∞ sentence construction ∞ usage ∞ grammar ∞ mechanics ∞ The proportion of error in terms of the complexity and length of the response will be considered.
Excellent (E = 5)	Ideas are insightful and carefully considered, demonstrating a comprehension of subtle distinctions in the literary text(s) and the topic. Literary interpretations are perceptive and illuminating.	Support is precise, and astutely chosen to reinforce the student's ideas in a convincing way. A valid connection to the student's ideas is efficiently maintained.	A judicious arrangement of ideas and details contributes to a fluent discussion that is developed skillfully. The unifying effect or controlling idea is effectively sustained and integrated.	Diction is precise. Syntactic structures are effective and sometimes polished. Stylistic choices contribute to the creation of a skillful composition with a convincing voice.	This writing demonstrates confidence in control of correct sentence construction, usage, grammar, and mechanics. The relative absence of error is impressive considering the complexity of the response.
Proficient (Pf = 4)	Ideas are thoughtful and considered, demonstrating a competent comprehension of the literary text(s) and the topic. Literary interpretations are revealing and sensible.	Support is specific, and well chosen to reinforce the student's ideas in a persuasive way. A sound connection to the student's ideas is capably maintained.	A purposeful arrangement of ideas and details contributes to a controlled discussion that is developed capably. The unifying effect or controlling idea is coherently sustained and presented.	Diction is specific. Syntactic structures are generally effective. Stylistic choices contribute to the creation of a considered composition with a capable voice.	This writing demonstrates competence in control of correct sentence construction, usage, grammar, and mechanics. Minor errors in complex language structures are understandable.
Satisfactory (S = 3)	Ideas are relevant and straightforward, demonstrating a generalized comprehension of the literary text(s) and the topic. Literary interpretations are general but plausible.	Support is general, adequate, and appropriately chosen to reinforce the student's ideas in an acceptable way but occasionally may lack persuasiveness. A reasonable connection to the student's ideas is suitably maintained.	A straightforward arrangement of ideas and details provides direction for the discussion that is developed appropriately. The unifying effect or controlling idea is presented and maintained generally; however, coherence may falter.	Diction is adequate. Syntactic structures are straightforward, but attempts at complex structures may be awkward. Stylistic choices contribute to the creation of a conventional composition with an appropriate voice.	This writing demonstrates control of the basics of correct sentence construction, usage, grammar, and mechanics. There may be occasional lapses in control and minor errors; however, the communication remains clear.
Limited (L = 2)	Ideas are superficial or oversimplified, demonstrating a weak comprehension of the literary text(s) and the topic. Literary interpretations are incomplete and/or literal.	Support is inadequate, inaccurate, largely a restatement of what was read, and/or inappropriately chosen to reinforce the student's ideas and thus lacks persuasiveness. A weak connection to the student's ideas is maintained.	A discernible but ineffectual arrangement of ideas and details provides some direction for the discussion that is underdeveloped. A unifying effect or controlling idea is inconsistently maintained.	Diction is imprecise and/or inappropriate. Syntactic structures are frequently awkward and/or ambiguous. Inadequate language choices contribute to the creation of a vague composition with an undiscerning voice.	This writing demonstrates faltering control of correct sentence construction, usage, grammar, and mechanics. The range of errors blurs the clarity of communication.
Poor (P = 1)	Ideas are largely absent or irrelevant, and/or do not develop the topic. Little comprehension of the literary text(s) is demonstrated.	Support is irrelevant, overgeneralized, lacks validity, and/or is absent. Little or no connection to the student's ideas is evident.	A haphazard arrangement of ideas and details provides little or no direction for the discussion, and development is lacking or obscure. A unifying effect or controlling idea is absent.	Diction is overgeneralized and/or inaccurate. Syntactic structures are uncontrolled and/or unintelligible. A lack of language choices contributes to the creation of a confused composition with an ineffective voice.	This writing demonstrates lack of control of correct sentence construction, usage, grammar, and mechanics. Jarring errors impair communication.
Insufficient (INS = 0)	Insufficient is a special category. It is not an indicator of quality. Insufficient will be assigned when - the student has written so little that it is not possible to assess Thought and Understanding and/or Supporting Evidence OR - no reference has been made to literature studied OR - the only literary reference present is to the text(s) provided in the first assignment OR - there is no evidence of an attempt to fulfill the task presented in the assignment.				

The Tragic Manifestation of Passion

Passion is an emotion that can prove to be a powerful force in determining the course of one's life, but, one must be careful to temper that passion. In his tragedy, *Macbeth*, William Shakespeare suggests that ruling passion may prove to bring about disastrous results, when this passion becomes an obsession. Macbeth is initially presented as a battle-hardened general who may harbour some ambition to ascend the throne. His character slowly deteriorates because of his regal ambition, resulting in tragic consequences. Shakespeare reveals how Macbeth's flawed character, his compliance with his wife's wishes, his belief in the supernatural and the witches' prophecies, and his subsequent madness result in the tragic events that unfold in the play.

Macbeth's tragic flaw becomes evident early in the play. At first, Macbeth is portrayed as a brave general who is devoted to his king. He has fought bravely to defend Scotland against the Norwegians. It is here that Shakespeare chooses to introduce the supernatural forces that guide the story. After meeting the witches and hearing their prophecies, Macbeth begins to show the imperfect nature of his character. When he hears that, indeed, the prophecy of him becoming Thane of Cawdor has come true, he remarks, "Two truths are told / As happy prologues to the swelling act / Of the imperial theme" suggesting that his royal ambition may have been in place before this encounter with the weird sisters. He also ponders, "If chance will have me King, why, chance / will crown me, / Without my stir". The title of Thane of Cawdor has fallen unsolicited upon his shoulders, not Banquo's, who is equally deserving of the title. Macbeth sees this as fate. He wants to believe the prophecies even though Banquo warns him, "oftentimes, to win us to our harm, / the instruments of darkness tell us truths, / Win us with honest trifles, to betray us / In deepest consequence". Later, at the palace, a glimmer of evil becomes apparent when Macbeth learns that Malcolm is to be Duncan's heir. He replies to this, "That is a step / on which I must fall down, or else o'er-leap / for in my way it lies. / Stars, hide your fires; / Let not light see my black and deep desires." His passion to become king has now taken hold. Shakespeare uses these prophecies to bring Macbeth's secret desire to be king to the surface and also acts as the catalyst that triggers the sequence of events that leads Macbeth down the path to darkness.

Macbeth's descent into darkness is also influenced by the machinations of his wife, Lady Macbeth. Unbeknownst to him, his ambition to become king is also shared by her. Lady Macbeth's ruthless nature is shown in her response to his letter informing her that he had been made Thane of Cawdor. Her response, "Glamis thou art, and Cawdor, and shalt be / what thou art promis'd" was immediate. She went on to declare, "Come you spirits / that tend on mortal thoughts, unsex me here / And fill me, from the crown to the toe, top full / of direst cruelty!" illustrating her cold-blooded desire to aid Macbeth in ascending the throne. She worries, "Yet do I fear thy nature; / it is too full o' the milk of human kindness." Seeing him, she immediately plants the idea of murder in his mind, "bear welcome in your eye, / your hand, your tongue: look like the innocent flower, / but be the serpent under 't. He that's coming / must be provided for: and you shall put / this night's great business into my dispatch." Initially, Macbeth appears to be willing to resort to murder, but then has second thoughts. Lady Macbeth becomes angry and challenges his manhood, "Art thou afeard / to be the same in thine own act and valour / ...and live a coward in thine own esteem", and, "When you durst do it, then you were a man; / and, to be more than what you were, you would / be so much more the man." Shakespeare uses Lady Macbeth's persistence and cruel words as the vehicle that gives Macbeth the added affirmation he needs to murder Duncan. By this time, Macbeth's ruling passion to be king overtakes the noble person that he was. His murder of Duncan starts a chain of treacherous events that leads to his demise.

The murder of Duncan is just the beginning of the treachery involving Macbeth. His ruling passion has resulted in him becoming a murderer in order to become king of Scotland. Now he is determined to retain power. His belief in the witches had been strengthened by two of the prophecies coming true; he had become Thane of Cawdor and was also crowned king. However, the forecast that Banquo's line would be kings in the future disturbed him greatly. Even though the prophecy said that Banquo would not be king, Macbeth is threatened by the fact that he has sacrificed his piece of mind, as well as his immortal soul, for the posterity of Banquo's issue. In an attempt to manipulate this situation to his favour, Macbeth employs two murderers to dispatch Banquo and his son, Fleance. As this objective is only partially achieved, it leads to Macbeth's further involvement with the witches. During this next encounter, Macbeth is told to "beware Macduff." His reaction to this is, "thou hast harp'd my fear aright" which indicates that he already had concerns about Macduff. However, when the apparition told Macbeth to "Be bloody, bold, and resolute; laugh to scorn / the power of man, for none of woman born / shall harm Macbeth", he naively believed he could not be harmed. Despite his belief in his newfound invincibility, he remarked, "Then live Macduff, what need I fear of thee? / But yet, I'll make assurance double sure". He then takes the action of being bloody and bold, and has Macduff's family brutally murdered in broad daylight as extra insurance to keep his power and his crown. Macbeth interprets the prophecies to justify his actions to himself. Macbeth now has no qualms about murdering anyone he believes may endanger his reign as king of Scotland.

It is evident with these murders, that Macbeth has started his descent into madness due to his ruling passion regarding the crown. He has become obsessed with maintaining power, to the point where he is not thinking logically. He has also lost any humanity that he had previously exhibited. The needless slaughter of Macduff's family proves to be a fatal mistake. There is no justification for the annihilation of Macduff's household, as Macduff is the threat, not his wife and children. Macbeth is aware that Macduff had fled to England, joining forces with Malcolm, son of Duncan, and should have been cognisant of the fact that destroying Macduff's family would only serve to strengthen Macduff's desire for vengeance. It also bolsters Malcolm's resolve to rid Scotland of a usurping madman who has plunged his country into despair and darkness. Macbeth's irrational actions cement the conviction his formidable adversaries have in their determination to overthrow him. Despite these realities, Macbeth believes himself to be invincible. Convinced that he could not be killed by "none of woman born," he murders, and orders murders, with impunity. His feelings of invincibility are further supported by the witches' statement, "Macbeth shall never vanquish'd be until / Great Birnam Wood to high Dunsinane Hill / Shall come against him". Surely a general with Macbeth's expertise would have used similar camouflage techniques in battle himself, and should have recognized the prophecy as illusory. His interpretation of the witches' words proves to be unfortunate for Macbeth. To his dismay, Great Birnam Wood does move to Dunsinane in the hands of Malcolm's soldiers. Further, he finds out at the most inopportune time that Macduff was "untimely ripped" from his mother's womb. Had Macbeth's rationality not been overtaken by his ambition, a man of his stature would not have fallen prey to such suggestions.

Shakespeare's Macbeth meets his death as a result of ruling passion. It was an obsession that overtook him and removed all sense of nobility and humanity. Macbeth's underlying desire to be king, his compliance with his wife's wishes, his belief in the prophecies, and his subsequent madness, all contributed to the tragic events in the play. Macbeth fell victim to his ambition. Shakespeare suggests that when one is consumed by a passion, the ensuing results may have inconceivable consequences. The course of one's life may be drastically altered by how one pursues that passion.

Commentary for Exemplar Scored Excellent (E)

SCORING CRITERIA	RATIONALE
Thought and Understanding (E) • Ideas are insightful and carefully considered, demonstrating a comprehension of subtle distinctions in the literary text(s) and the topic. • Literary interpretations are perceptive and illuminating.	The controlling idea that “ruling passion may prove to bring about disastrous results, when this passion becomes an obsession” and is carefully considered. The student’s awareness of the subtle distinctions in the literary text as in the observations that “his royal ambition may have been in place before this encounter with the weird sisters”, “As this objective is only partially achieved, it leads to Macbeth’s further involvement with the witches”, and “He has become obsessed with maintaining power, to the point where he is not thinking logically”, demonstrates the student’s insightful comprehension of the literary text and the topic. Literary interpretations, such as “Shakespeare uses these prophecies to bring Macbeth’s secret desire to be king to the surface and also acts as the catalyst that triggers the sequence of events that leads Macbeth down the path to darkness”, “Macbeth’s descent into darkness is also influenced by the machinations of his wife, Lady Macbeth. Unbeknownst to him, his ambition to become king is also shared by her”, “Macbeth interprets the prophecies to justify his actions to himself” and “Had Macbeth’s rationality not been overtaken by his ambition, a man of his stature would not have fallen prey to such suggestions” are perceptive and illuminating.

Commentary for Exemplar Scored Excellent (E)

SCORING CRITERIA	RATIONALE
Supporting Evidence (E) - Support is precise, and astutely chosen to reinforce the student's ideas in a convincing way. - A valid connection to the student's ideas is efficiently maintained.	Throughout the paper, with reference to Macbeth's obsession with becoming king and retaining power, support is precise – "Later, at the palace, a glimmer of evil becomes apparent when Macbeth learns that Malcolm is to be Duncan's heir", "Seeing him, she immediately plants the idea of murder in his mind", "Even though the prophecy said that Banquo would not be king, Macbeth is threatened by the fact that he has sacrificed his piece of mind, as well as his immortal soul, for the posterity of Banquo's issue", "Macbeth is aware that Macduff had fled to England, joining forces with Malcolm, son of Duncan, and should have been cognisant of the fact that destroying Macduff's family would only serve to strengthen Macduff's desire for vengeance"; astutely chosen – "Macbeth's irrational actions cement the conviction his formidable adversaries have in their determination to overthrow him"; and reinforces the student's ideas in a convincing way – "Surely a general with Macbeth's expertise would have used similar camouflage techniques in battle himself, and should have recognized the prophecy as illusory. His interpretation of the witches' words proves to be unfortunate for Macbeth." Concluding statements within each body paragraph, "Shakespeare uses these prophecies to bring Macbeth's secret desire to be king to the surface and also acts as the catalyst that triggers the sequence of events that leads Macbeth down the path to darkness", "By this time, Macbeth's ruling passion to be king overtakes the noble person that he was. His murder of Duncan starts a chain of treacherous events that leads to his demise", "Macbeth now has no qualms about murdering anyone he believes may endanger his reign as king of Scotland", and "Had Macbeth's rationality not been overtaken by his ambition, a man of his stature would not have fallen prey to such suggestions" serve to efficiently maintain a valid connection to the student's idea.

Commentary for Exemplar Scored Excellent (E)

SCORING CRITERIA	RATIONALE
Form and Structure (E) - A judicious arrangement of ideas and details contributes to a fluent discussion that is developed skillfully. - The unifying effect or controlling idea is effectively sustained and integrated.	The student clearly establishes the basic structure for the response in the following statement: “Shakespeare reveals how Macbeth’s flawed character, his compliance with his wife’s wishes, his belief in the supernatural and the witches’ prophecies, and his subsequent madness result in the tragic events that unfold in the play.” The discussion of each of these ideas is enhanced through the judicious arrangement of ideas and details, connecting – and within – each of the body paragraphs where the discussion of each idea forms the foundation for the discussion of the subsequent idea. The student skillfully develops the relationship between these ideas within the body paragraphs through the use of transitional devices, such as “Macbeth’s descent into darkness is also influenced by the machinations of his wife, Lady Macbeth”, “The murder of Duncan is just the beginning of the treachery involving Macbeth”, and “It is evident with these murders, that Macbeth has started his descent into madness due to his ruling passion regarding the crown.” These structural decisions lead to a fluent discussion. The student’s definition of passion as “an emotion that can prove to be a powerful force in determining the course of one’s life, but, [but] one must be careful to temper that passion” provides a context for the controlling idea that “ruling passion may prove to bring about disastrous results, when this passion becomes an obsession”. This idea is effectively sustained and integrated throughout the paper.

Commentary for Exemplar Scored Excellent (E)

SCORING CRITERIA	RATIONALE
Matter of Choice (E) • Diction is precise. Stylistic choices contribute to the creation of a skillful composition with a convincing voice. • Syntactic structures are effective and sometimes polished. • Stylistic choices contribute to the creation of a skillful composition with a convincing voice.	Diction is precise, as evidenced by such examples as “unsolicited”, “machinations”, “newfound invincibility”, and “cognisant”. Syntactic structures are effective and sometimes polished: “The title of Thane of Cawdor has fallen unsolicited upon his shoulders, not Banquo’s, who is equally deserving of the title”, “Shakespeare uses Lady Macbeth’s persistence and cruel words as the vehicle that gives Macbeth the added affirmation he needs to murder Duncan”, “Even though the prophecy said that Banquo would not be king, Macbeth is threatened by the fact that he has sacrificed his piece of mind, as well as his immortal soul, for the posterity of Banquo’s issue”, and “Macbeth is aware that Macduff had fled to England, joining forces with Malcolm, son of Duncan, and should have been cognisant of the fact that destroying Macduff’s family would only serve to strengthen Macduff’s desire for vengeance”. Stylistic choices, such as “Macbeth’s descent into darkness is also influenced by the machinations of his wife “, “He then takes the action of being bloody and bold, and has MacDuff’s family brutally murdered in broad daylight as extra insurance to keep his power and his crown”, and “It also bolsters Malcolm’s resolve to rid Scotland of a usurping madman who has plunged his country into despair and darkness” contribute to the creation of a skillful composition with a convincing voice.

Commentary for Exemplar Scored Excellent (E)

SCORING CRITERIA	RATIONALE
Matter of Correctness (E) • This writing demonstrates confidence in control of correct sentence construction, usage, grammar, and mechanics. • The relative absence of error is impressive considering the complexity of the response.	Sentence construction, as in “There is no justification for the annihilation of Macduff’s household, as Macduff is the threat, not his wife and children. Macbeth is aware that Macduff had fled to England, joining forces with Malcolm, son of Duncan, and should have been cognisant of the fact that destroying Macduff’s family would only serve to strengthen Macduff’s desire for vengeance. It also bolsters Malcolm’s resolve to rid Scotland of a usurping madman who has plunged his country into despair and darkness. Macbeth’s irrational actions cement the conviction his formidable adversaries have in their determination to overthrow him. Despite these realities, Macbeth believes himself to be invincible,” demonstrates confidence in control of correct sentence construction, usage, grammar, and mechanics. The relative absence of error is impressive considering the complexity and length of the response.

PROFICIENT

MacBeth's Passion

Passion is an emotion that can prove to be a powerful force in determining the course of a person's life. In the play, *Macbeth*, William Shakespeare suggests that ruling passion can prove to bring about disastrous results. Shakespeare illustrates how Macbeth's character slowly deteriorates because of his ambition and results in tragic consequences. Shakespeare reveals how Macbeth's underlying character, his compliance with his wife's wishes, his belief in the supernatural and the witches' prophecies, and his subsequent madness resulted in the tragic events that unfolded in the play.

Macbeth's underlying character becomes evident early in the play. At first, Macbeth was portrayed as a brave general who is devoted to his king. He had fought bravely to defend Scotland against the Norwegian king. It is here that Shakespeare chooses to introduce the supernatural forces that guide the story. After meeting the witches and hearing their prophecies, Macbeth began to show the other side of his character. When he heard that, indeed, the prophecy of him becoming Thane of Cawdor had come true, he remarked, "This supernatural soliciting/ cannot be ill; cannot be good; if ill,/ why hath it given me earnest of success,/ commencing in a truth?" The title of Thane of Cawdor had basically fallen into his lap, not Banquo's, who was equally deserving of the title. Macbeth saw this as fate. Macbeth wanted to believe the prophecies even though his friend Banquo warned him "oftentimes, to win us to our harm,/ the instruments of darkness tell us truths,/ Win us with honest trifles, to betray us/ In deepest consequence". Later, at the palace, a glimmer of evil became apparent when Macbeth heard that Malcolm was to be Duncan's heir. He saw Malcolm as yet another obstacle in his path. His passion to become king had now taken hold.

Macbeth's descent into darkness was also a result of the actions of his wife, Lady Macbeth. Unbeknownst to Macbeth, his ambition to become king was also shared by his wife. Her ruthless nature was shown in her response to his letter informing her that he had been made Thane of Cawdor. Upon seeing him, she immediately planted the idea of murder in his mind with "bear welcome in your eye,/ your hand, your tongue: look like the innocent flower,/ but be the serpent under 't. He that's coming/ must be provided for: and you shall put/ this night's great business into my dispatch." Initially, Macbeth appeared to be willing to resort to murder but then had second thoughts. Lady Macbeth became angry and challenged his manhood with hurtful phrases. Shakespeare uses Lady Macbeth's persistence and cruel words as the vehicle that seemed to give Macbeth the extra push he needed to murder Duncan. By this time, Macbeth's ruling passion to be king overtakes the person that he was.

The murder of Duncan was just the beginning of the treachery involving Macbeth. His ruling passion had resulted in him becoming a murderer in order to become king of Scotland. Now he was determined to stay king. His belief in the prophecies had been strengthened by two of the prophecies coming true; he had become Thane of Cawdor and was also crowned king. However, the prophecy that Banquo's line would be kings in the future disturbed him deeply. Even though the prophecy said that Banquo would not be king, Macbeth was threatened by the fact that Banquo's children may one day try to take the crown from him. So, Macbeth had his

friend Banquo murdered. His involvement with the witches then grew deeper. On his second visit, Macbeth had been told to “beware Macduff.” His reaction to this was that he already had concerns about Macduff. However, when the apparition told Macbeth to “Be bloody, bold, and resolute; laugh to scorn/ the power of man, for none of woman born/ shall harm Macbeth”, he acted on it. Now, he believed that he could not be harmed. He took the action of being bloody and bold, however, and had Macduff’s family brutally murdered in broad daylight as extra insurance to keep his power and his crown. Shakespeare used the prophecies to show how Macbeth interpreted the prophecies in such a way that he justified his actions to himself.

It was evident with these murders, that Macbeth, by this time, had started to descend into madness because of his ruling passion regarding the crown. He had become obsessed with being king and keeping his crown to the point where he was not thinking logically. He had also lost any humanity that he had had in the past. The needless slaughter of Macduff’s family proved to be a fatal mistake for Macbeth. At the time, there was no need to kill Macduff’s family, as Macduff was the threat, not his family. Macbeth was aware that Macduff had fled to England and should have assumed that he would join forces with Malcolm, son of Duncan. The slaughter of Macduff’s family only served to make Macduff want revenge even more. It also strengthened Malcolm’s resolve to rid Scotland of a madman that had plunged his country into despair and darkness. So, as a result of his actions, Macbeth now had two formidable enemies that were determined to overthrow him. However, by this time, Macbeth truly thought that he was invincible. He believed that he could not be killed by “none of a woman born.” So he murdered and ordered murders at a whim, believing that there could not be any reprisal against him. Macbeth believed that the last prophecy about Birnam Wood moving to Dunsinane meant that he could not be conquered. In his eyes, he could not be killed nor conquered and would live out his life without fear of losing his crown. His interpretation of these prophecies proved to be unfortunate for Macbeth. To his dismay, Great Birnam Wood did move to Dunsinane in the hands of Malcolm’s soldiers. Unfortunately, Macbeth found out at the most unfortunate time that Macduff was “untimely ripped” from his mother’s womb. This meant that Macduff was not born of a woman and was indeed capable of killing him. The prophecies had two meanings that were open to interpretation. Unfortunately, Macbeth interpreted the prophecies in the way he wanted to interpret them, which in the end, led to his death.

Shakespeare’s Macbeth meets his death as a result of ruling passion. It was a passion that overtook him and removed all sense of nobility and humanity. Macbeth’s underlying desire to be king, his compliance with his wife’s wishes, his belief in the prophecies, and his subsequent madness all contributed to the tragic events in the play. Macbeth fell victim to his own passion and his own greed. Other than the first prophecy, Macbeth actively influenced the events that occurred in such a way that the prophecies benefiting him came true. He also influenced events so that the prophecies not benefiting him, did not come true. His obsession with the crown of Scotland caused a drastic change in his character which ultimately led to his madness and his death.

Commentary for Exemplar Scored Proficient (Pf)

SCORING CRITERIA	RATIONALE
Thought and Understanding (Pf) • Support is specific, and well chosen to reinforce the student's ideas in a persuasive way. • A sound connection to the student's ideas is capably maintained.	The student's response focuses on the thoughtful idea that "ruling passion can prove to bring about disastrous results" and considers "how Macbeth's character slowly deteriorates because of his ambition and results in tragic consequences." Literary interpretations such as "After meeting the witches and hearing their prophecies, Macbeth began to show the other side of his character", "Unbeknownst to Macbeth, his ambition to become king was also shared by his wife", "His ruling passion had resulted in him becoming a murderer in order to become king of Scotland. Now he was determined to stay king", and "He had become obsessed with being king and keeping his crown to the point where he was not thinking logically" are revealing and sensible.

Commentary for Exemplar Scored Proficient (Pf)

SCORING CRITERIA	RATIONALE
Supporting Evidence (Pf) - Support is specific, and well chosen to reinforce the student's ideas in a persuasive way. - A sound connection to the student's ideas is capably maintained.	The student employs specific and well-chosen support throughout the paper: "Macbeth wanted to believe the prophecies even though his friend Banquo warned him 'oftentimes, to win us to our harm,/ the instruments of darkness tell us truths,/Win us with honest trifles, to betray us/In deepest consequence'", "Her ruthless nature was shown in her response to his letter informing her that he had been made Thane of Cawdor", "Even though the prophecy said that Banquo would not be king, Macbeth was threatened by the fact that Banquo's children may one day try to take the crown from him", and "To his dismay, Great Birnam Wood did move to Dunsinane in the hands of Malcolm's soldiers. Unfortunately, Macbeth found out at the most unfortunate time that Macduff was "untimely ripped" from his mother's womb. This support reinforces the student's ideas in a persuasive way. Introductory statements within each paragraph – "Macbeth's underlying character becomes evident early in the play", "Macbeth's descent into darkness was also a result of the actions of his wife", "The murder of Duncan was just the beginning of the treachery involving Macbeth" and "It was evident with these murders, that Macbeth, by this time, had started to descend into madness because of his ruling passion regarding the crown" – serve to capably maintain a sound connection to the student's idea that that "ruling passion can prove to bring about disastrous results".

Commentary for Exemplar Scored Proficient (Pf)

SCORING CRITERIA	RATIONALE
Form and Structure (Pf) • A purposeful arrangement of ideas and details contributes to a controlled discussion that is developed capably. • The unifying effect or controlling idea is coherently sustained and presented.	A purposeful arrangement of ideas and details is evident in the student's examination of specific examples of when Macbeth's ruling passion brings about disastrous results – "Shakespeare reveals how Macbeth's underlying character, his compliance with his wife's wishes, his belief in the supernatural and the witches' prophecies, and his subsequent madness resulted in the tragic events that unfolded in the play." The student presents a controlled and capable discussion exploring each of these ideas. The student's definition of passion as "an emotion that can prove to be a powerful force in determining the course of a person's life" provides a context for the controlling idea that "ruling passion can prove to bring about disastrous results". This idea is coherently sustained and presented throughout the paper.

Commentary for Exemplar Scored Proficient (Pf)

SCORING CRITERIA	RATIONALE
Matters of Choice (Pf) • Diction is specific. • Syntactic structures are generally effective. • Stylistic choices contribute to the creation of a considered composition with a capable voice.	Examples such as “a glimmer of evil”, “challenged his manhood with hurtful phrases”, “beginning of the treachery”, and “needless slaughter” demonstrate precise choices of diction. The paper offers examples of generally effective syntactic structures – “Shakespeare reveals how Macbeth’s underlying character, his compliance with his wife’s wishes, his belief in the supernatural and the witches’ prophecies, and his subsequent madness resulted in the tragic events that unfolded in the play”, “Shakespeare uses Lady Macbeth’s persistence and cruel words as the vehicle that seemed to give Macbeth the extra push he needed to murder Duncan”, and “Other than the first prophecy, Macbeth actively influenced the events that occurred in such a way that the prophecies benefiting him came true. Stylistic choices contribute to the creation of a considered composition – “Macbeth’s descent into darkness was also a result of the actions of his wife, Lady Macbeth. Unbeknownst to Macbeth, his ambition to become king was also shared by his wife. Her ruthless nature was shown in her response to his letter informing her that he had been made Thane of Cawdor.” A capable voice is created with examples such as “descent into darkness”, “He took the action of being bloody and bold, however, and had MacDuff’s family brutally murdered in broad daylight as extra insurance to keep his power and his crown”, and “It was a passion that overtook him and removed all sense of nobility and humanity.”

Commentary for Exemplar Scored Proficient (Pf)

SCORING CRITERIA	RATIONALE
Matters of Correctness (Pf) • This writing demonstrates competence in control of correct sentence construction, usage, grammar, and mechanics. • Minor errors in complex language structures are understandable.	Considering the complexity and length of the response, this writing demonstrates competence in control of correct sentence construction, usage, grammar, and mechanics, as in “Her ruthless nature was shown in her response to his letter informing her that he had been made Thane of Cawdor.” Minor errors in complex language structures, such as missed apostrophes, as in “persons life”, spelling mistakes, as in “Lady Macbeth’s persistence”, pronoun reference, “a madman that”, and shift in tense from past to present, “passion to be king overtakes the person that he was” are understandable.

SATISFACTORY

MacBeth Essay on Passion

William Shakespeare was a great author who wrote many thrilling plays about passion. Passion is a strong feeling that is a powerful in determining how a persons life comes out. In the book Macbeth, William says that ruling passion is a negative thing and shows how Macbeth's ambition ends up in tragedy. Like for instance Macbeth listening to the witches crazy future predictions, Lady Macbeth helping Macbeth kill Duncan, and Macbeth's passion to stay King. All of those had a lot to do with passion that ruled their own lives.

At the beginning of the play Macbeth is a loyal soldier who would do anything for King Duncan. Right after this, we see the witches for the first time and Macbeth's passion starts to show. The witches tell Macbeth he is going to be Thane of Glamis, Cawdor, and then King. As a result of these perdictions Macbeth develops a passion to become King, quote, "If chance will have me King, why, chance/ will crown me,/ Without my stir". It is after this that Macbeth begins plotting to kill the king, because he has a passion to become powerful. He doesn't listen when his friend Banquo warns him about the witches.

Lady Macbeth is Macbeth's partner in crime. She has a passion to be Queen. When she is trying to get Macbeth to kill King Duncan, she said to him, "I have given suck, and know / how tender 'tis to love the babe that milks me: / I would, while it was smiling in my face, / have plucked my nipple from his boneless gums, / and dashed the brains out had I so sworn / as you have done to this." She is basically saying that Macbeth should suck it up and not be such a wimp if he is really passionate about being King. She is obviously the one wearing the pants in this relationship. Her nagging gave her husband the extra push to commit murder and work on his passion of being King.

The witches push Macbeth into killing. They told him he would be King, so once he is, he pays a visit to the witches for more information. They tell him to "beware Macduff" but also that no man born from a woman can harm him and I quote "For none of women born / Shall harm Macbeth." This stirs up his passion again, because they also tell him, quote "Macbeth shall never vanquished be until / Great Birnam Wood to high Dunsinane Hill / Shall come against him." He is really convinced about being invincible and his passion to stay in power is even stronger than before.

Macbeth has become King and has a passion to stay in power. He starts getting rid of anything in his way and starts to go crazy. He kills Banquo and Macduff's family because he's mad at Macduff for going to England and deserting him. His wife kills herself and he doesn't really care. He knows that he has no friends. At the end the witches tricked him because the soldiers cut down the tree branches as they move to his castle and Macduff was born by a c-section and was able to kill him.

Because of his passion, Macbeth dies. He falls for the witches perdictions and his wives nagging. He killed anyone and anything in his way. His passion to be King was so great it lead to his death. So you should be careful about what you wish for because passion can kill you.

Commentary for Exemplar Scored Satisfactory (S)

SCORING CRITERIA	RATIONALE
Thought and Understanding (S) • Ideas are relevant and straightforward, demonstrating a generalized comprehension of the literary text(s) and the topic. • Literary interpretations are general but plausible.	The student's idea that "ruling passion is a negative and shows how Macbeth's ambition ends up in tragedy" is straightforward. The discussion of passion being affected by others in a person's life is relevant and shows a generalized comprehension of <i>Macbeth</i> and the topic. Literary interpretations, as seen in "At the beginning of the play Macbeth is a loyal soldier who would do anything for King Duncan. Right after this, we see the witches for the first time and Macbeth's passion starts to show" and "He is really convinced about being invincible and his passion to stay in power is even stronger than before" are general but plausible.

Commentary for Exemplar Scored Satisfactory (S)

SCORING CRITERIA	RATIONALE
Supporting Evidence (S) - Support is general, adequate, and appropriately chosen to reinforce the student's ideas in an acceptable way but occasionally may lack persuasiveness. - A reasonable connection to the student's ideas is suitably maintained.	The student uses general, appropriate support to discuss three characters – “As a result of these predictions Macbeth develops a passion to become King, quote, “If chance will have me King, why, chance/ will crown me,/ Without my stir”, “Her nagging gave her husband the extra push to commit murder and work on his passion of being King”, “The witches push Macbeth into killing”, and “He kills Banquo and Macduff’s family because he’s mad at Macduff for going to England and deserting him.” These details appropriately reinforce the controlling idea and illustrate general support. Introductory statements within each paragraph – “At the beginning of the play Macbeth is a loyal soldier who would do anything for King Duncan”, “Lady Macbeth is Macbeth’s partner in crime”, “The witches push Macbeth into killing” and “Macbeth has become King and has a passion to stay in power” – suitably maintain a reasonable connection to the student’s ideas.

Commentary for Exemplar Scored Satisfactory (S)

SCORING CRITERIA	RATIONALE
Form and Structure (S) • A straightforward arrangement of ideas and details provides direction for the discussion that is developed appropriately. • The unifying effect or controlling idea is presented and maintained generally; however, coherence may falter.	The straightforward arrangement of the discussion as to how Macbeth is influenced, outlined in the introduction – “Like for instance Macbeth listening to the witches crazy future predictions, Lady Macbeth helping Macbeth kill Duncan, and Macbeth’s passion to stay King” – is developed appropriately as each of the three paragraphs focuses on a single influence. The unifying effect created by structures such as “It is after this that Macbeth begins plotting to kill the King, because he has a passion to become powerful”, “Her nagging gave her husband the extra push to commit murder and work on his passion of being King”, “He is really convinced about being invincible and his passion to stay in power is even stronger than before” and “Macbeth has become King and has a passion to stay in power” is maintained generally and then summarized in the conclusion with “He killed anyone and anything in his way. His passion to be King was so great it lead to his death.” However, two sentence in the introduction – “William Shakespeare was a great author who wrote many thrilling plays about passion” and “All of those had a lot to do with passion that ruled their own lives” causes coherence to falter, as these ideas are not explored in the paper.

Commentary for Exemplar Scored Satisfactory (S)

SCORING CRITERIA	RATIONALE
Matters of Choice (S) - Diction is adequate. - Syntactic structures are straightforward, but attempts at complex structures may be awkward. - Stylistic choices contribute to the creation of a conventional composition with an appropriate voice.	Choices of diction in sentences such as “He doesn’t listen when his friend Banquo warns him about the witches”, “The witches push Macbeth into killing” and “He starts getting rid of anything in his way and starts to go crazy” are adequate. Syntactical structures, such as “He kills Banquo and Macduff’s family because he’s mad at Macduff for going to England and deserting him” are straightforward, but attempts at complex structures may be awkward as in “At the end the witches tricked him because the soldiers cut down the tree branches as they move to his castle and Macduff was born by a c-section and was able to kill him.” Further awkwardness is demonstrated by colloquial phrasings such as “and I quote”, “suck it up and not be such a wimp” and “wearing the pants”. Stylistic choices, as in “They told him he would be King, so once he is, he pays a visit to the witches for more information” contribute to the creation of a conventional composition with an appropriate voice.

Commentary for Exemplar Scored Satisfactory (S)

SCORING CRITERIA	RATIONALE
Matters of Correctness (S) • This writing demonstrates control of the basics of correct sentence construction, usage, grammar, and mechanics. • There may be occasional lapses in control and minor errors. • However, the communication remains clear.	The student demonstrates control of the basics of correct sentence construction, usage, grammar, and mechanics as in “It is after this that Macbeth begins plotting to kill the king, because he has a passion to become powerful. He doesn’t listen when his friend Banquo warns him about the witches.” There are occasional lapses in control and minor errors as in incomplete sentences – “Like for instance Macbeth listening to the witches crazy future predictions, Lady Macbeth helping Macbeth kill Duncan, and Macbeth’s passion to stay King”; consistency of tense and pronouns – “So you should be careful about what you wish for because passion can kill you”; spelling errors – “perdictions”, “herslef; missed apostrophes – “wives nagging”; and misuse of capitalization – “about being King”. However, the communication remains clear.

LIMITED

MacBeth

William Shakespeare's ideas of how passion effects someones life are shown huglely in Macbeth. Everyone else's passions also resulted in what had happened in the play. Macbeth was did lots in the book to show how much he loved her.

The witches enticed Macbeth to believe that he will become great, he decided to believe this because the first two prophecies came true. To make the final prophecy become true he chose to kill Duncan to ascend the throne. Macbeth has thought over it several, several times and might not have killed Duncan if Lady Macbeth did not choose to entice him into killing Duncan. The witchs said to Macbeth that Banquos kids will be King. This made him and his wife mad. he kills Banquo and his son to prove to his wife that there kids will become King someday. They want to make sure there kid would be King someday. "I have given suck, and know how tender tis to love the babe that milks me" His passion for her made him kill Duncan.

After Duncan was dead Macbeth had decided to not trust anyone which bred contempt amongst his "Allies" which eventually lead to his death. Macbeth had also hired murderer's to kill several people including Macduffs children and wife and Banquo, all at the same time. This Angered Macduff and Malcolm even more which would give them the edge in a battle and strategy.

The witches had eventually told Macbeth that he was immune to any man born of woman and he chose to believe them like he always had because the requirements for when he was going to die were near impossible in his mind. His passion for his wife made him fight Macduff until his head was cut off.

Many of the passions in macbeth had contributed to the end result and people can change their fate to what they believe and what they choose to believe. Shakespeare shows how passion rules and results on a grand scale.

Commentary for Exemplar Scored Limited (L)

SCORING CRITERIA	RATIONALE
Thought and Understanding (L) - Ideas are superficial or oversimplified, demonstrating a weak comprehension of the literary text and the topic. - Literary interpretations are incomplete and/or literal.	The student's idea "how passion effects someones life are shown huglely in Macbeth" is oversimplified, while "Macbeth was did lots in the book to show how much he loved her" indicates a weak comprehension of both literary text and topic. Literary interpretations, as seen in "The witchs said to Macbeth that Banquos kids will be King. This made him and his wife mad. he kills Banquo and his son to prove to his wife that there kids will become King someday" are incomplete.

Commentary for Exemplar Scored Limited (L)

SCORING CRITERIA	RATIONALE
Supporting Evidence (L) • Support is inadequate, inaccurate, largely a restatement of what was read, and/or inappropriately chosen to reinforce the student's ideas and thus lacks persuasiveness. • A weak connection to the student's ideas is maintained.	The support, “The witches enticed Macbeth”, “Macbeth had decided to not trust anyone which bred contempt amongst his ‘Allies’ which eventually lead to his death”, “he kills Banquo and his son to prove to his wife that there kids will become King someday” and “he chose to believe them like he always had because the requirements for when he was going to die were near impossible in his mind” is inadequate and inaccurate and has been inappropriately chosen to reinforce the student's ideas and thus lacks persuasiveness. Support such as “This Angered Macduff and Malcolm even more which would give them the edge in a battle and strategy” maintains a weak connection to the idea in the concluding statement “Shakespeare shows how passion rules and results on a grand scale.”

Commentary for Exemplar Scored Limited (L)

SCORING CRITERIA	RATIONALE
Form and Structure (L) • A discernible but ineffectual arrangement of ideas and details provides some direction for the discussion that is underdeveloped. • A unifying effect or controlling idea is inconsistently maintained.	The student's premise stated in the introduction "Macbeth was did lots in the book to show how much he loved her" provides some direction for the discussion – "he kills Banquo and his son to prove to his wife that there kids will become King someday" and "His passion for his wife made him fight Macduff until his head was cut off" but this discussion is underdeveloped, creating a discernible but ineffectual arrangement of ideas and details. The controlling ideas in the introduction, "William Shakespeare's ideas of how passion effects someones life are shown huglely in Macbeth. Everyone else's passions also resulted in what had happened in the play" and the conclusion, "Shakespeare shows how passion rules and results on a grand scale" are inconsistently maintained.

Commentary for Exemplar Scored Limited (L)

SCORING CRITERIA	RATIONALE
Matters of Choice (L) - Diction is imprecise and/or inappropriate. - Syntactic structures are frequently awkward and/or ambiguous. - Inadequate language choices contribute to the creation of a vague composition with an undiscerning voice.	Choices of diction in sentences such as “Macbeth was did lots in the book to show how much he loved her” and “Many of the passions in macbeth had contributed to the end result and people can change their fate to what they believe and what they choose to believe” are imprecise. Ambiguous and awkward syntactic structures are indicated by such sentences as “His passion for his wife made him fight Macduff until his head was cut off” and “After Duncan was dead Macbeth had decided to not trust anyone which bred contempt amongst his “Allies” which eventually lead to his death.” Inadequate language choices – “William Shakespeare’s ideas of how passion effects someones life are shown huglely in Macbeth. Everyone else’s passions also resulted in what had happened in the play” and “Shakespeare shows how passion rules and results on a grand scale” contribute to the creation of a vague composition with an undiscerning voice.

Commentary for Exemplar Scored Limited (L)

SCORING CRITERIA	RATIONALE
Matters of Correctness (L) This writing demonstrates faltering control of correct sentence construction, usage, grammar, and mechanics.	This writing demonstrates faltering control of correct sentence construction – “The witches had eventually told Macbeth that he was immune to any man born of woman and he chose to believe them like he always had because the requirements for when he was going to die were near impossible in his mind” and “This Angered Macduff and Malcolm even more which would give them the edge in a battle and strategy”; usage and grammar – “Macbeth was did lots in the book to show how much he loved her”, and mechanics – “William Shakespeare’s ideas of how passion effects someones life are shown huglely in Macbeth”, “Macbeth had also hired murderer’s to kill several people including Macduffs children and wife and Banquo, all at the same time” and “he kills Banquo and his son to prove to his wife that there kids will become King someday.”
The range of errors blurs the clarity of communication.	The range of errors blurs the clarity of communication.

POOR

macbeth is a story about a mid evil warier who lives in scotland and kills his cousin and many other people. William Shakespeare rote this story for King james who had written a book about witchs. they were pasionate about witchcraft.

when he be came King all the passion to get there was his downfall. with the help of some evil witches and the state of his mind. which was pretty much scramble eggs by all the guilt that was consuming him. he killed his freind banquet to stay at the top and all of McDuffs wife and chickens. he killed Duncan to and got bloody hands. his wife killed herslef cause she could not wash the blood of.

macbeth was very very pasionate to his wife. he wrote her letters and went to the witchs. to ask about theire future. she pumped all the pompus crap into his head and made him so disfunctional it lead to his up rising and down fall. she pushed his ego to acheive what he would never of bin able to do on his own.

he eventually disclosed all his betrayal witch lead to his beheading and lost of his King ship. if he wasn't so impaischunt about becoming the king he might of got to be the king anyway and not have to murder and lie his way to the throne. he just had to be paischunt and honest let the good times roll and their would have been a good change things would have worked out for him.

peple shouldn't fool around with witchcraft they should pick normal pasions. mcbeth should of bin happy being a warier. he could of kept his head and his wife happy.

Commentary for Exemplar Scored Poor (P)

SCORING CRITERIA	RATIONALE
Thought and Understanding (P) - Ideas are largely absent or irrelevant, and/or do not develop the topic. - Little comprehension of the literary text is demonstrated.	The introduction “mcbeth is a story about a mid evil warier who lives in scotland and kills his cousin and many other people William Shakespeare rote this story for King james who had written a book about witchs. they were pasionate about witchcraft” mentions the word “pasionate”, but the ideas presented are irrelevant and do not develop the topic. The conclusion “peple shouldn’t fool around with witchcraft they should pick normal pasions. mcbeth should of bin happy being a warier. he could of kept his head and his wife happy” demonstrates little comprehension of the literary text.

SCORING CRITERIA	RATIONALE
Supporting Evidence (P) - Support is irrelevant, overgeneralized, lacks validity, and/or is absent. - Little or no connection to the student’s ideas is evident.	Support such as “which was pretty much scramble eggs by all the guilt that was consuming him”, “macbeth was very very pasionate to his wife” and “he just had to be paischunt and honest let the good times roll and their would have been a good change things would have worked out for him” is irrelevant, overgeneralized, and lacks validity. Little or no connection to the student’s idea “kills his cousin and many other people” is evident.

Commentary for Exemplar Scored Poor (P)

SCORING CRITERIA	RATIONALE
Form and Structure (P) • A haphazard arrangement of ideas and details provides little or no direction for the discussion, and development is lacking or obscure. • A unifying effect or controlling idea is absent.	The introduction, “mcbeth is a story about a mid evil warier who lives in scotland and kills his cousin and many other people. William Shakespeare rote this story for King james who had written a book about witchs. they were pasionate about witchcraft”, followed by a poor plot summary, an attempt to describe the marital relationship of the Macbeths and a discussion of Macbeth’s impatience presents a haphazard arrangement of ideas and details which provides little or no direction for the discussion. Development is lacking or obscure. A unifying effect or controlling idea is absent as evidenced by the introduction, “mcbeth is a story about a mid evil warier who lives in scotland and kills his cousin and many other people. William Shakespeare rote this story for King james who had written a book about witchs. they were pasionate about witchcraft”, the haphazard arrangement of the body paragraphs, and the conclusion, “peple shouldn’t fool around with witchcraft they should pick normal pasions. mcbeth should of bin happy being a warier. he could of kept his head and his wife happy.”

Commentary for Exemplar Scored Poor (P)

SCORING CRITERIA	RATIONALE
Matters of Choice (P) • Diction is overgeneralized and/or inaccurate. • Syntactic structures are uncontrolled and/or unintelligible. • A lack of language choices contributes to the creation of a confused composition with an ineffective voice.	Diction is overgeneralized and/or inaccurate – “When he be came King all the passion to get there was his downfall” , “he just had to be paischunt and honest let the good times roll and their would have been a good change things would have worked out for him” and “they should pick normal passions”. Syntactic structures are uncontrolled and/or unintelligible – “he eventually disclosed all his betrayal witch lead to his beheading and lost of his King ship” and “he killed his freind banquet to stay at the top and all of McDuff’s wife and chickens. he killed Duncan to and got bloody hands. his wife killed herself cause she could not wash the blood of.” A lack of language choices – “mcbeth is a story about a mid evil warier who lives in scotland and kills his cousin and many other people”, “with the help of some evil witches and the state of his mind. which was pretty much scramble eggs by all the guilt that was consuming him”, and “she pumped all the pompus crap into his head and made him so disfunctional it lead to his up rising and down fall” – contributes to the creation of a confused composition with an ineffective voice.

Commentary for Exemplar Scored Poor (P)

SCORING CRITERIA	RATIONALE
Matters of Correctness (P) • This writing demonstrates lack of control of correct sentence construction, usage, grammar, and mechanics. • Jarring errors impair communication.	This writing demonstrates lack of control of correct sentence construction – “with the help of some evil witches and the state of his mind”; usage – “which was pretty much scramble eggs by all the guilt that was consuming him” and “he just had to be paischunt and honest let the good times roll and their would have been a good change things would have worked out for him”; grammar – “she pushed his ego to acheive what he would never of bin able to do on his own”; and mechanics – “he killed his freind banquet to stay at the top and all of McDuffs wife and chickens.” Jarring errors impair communication – “when he be came King all the passion to get there was his downfall. with the help of some evil witches and the state of his mind. which was pretty much scramble eggs by all the guilt that was consuming him. he killed his freind banquet to stay at the top and all of McDuffs wife and chickens. he killed Duncan to and got bloody hands. his wife killed herslef cause she could not wash the blood of.”

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