Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

**Thesis Statement/Essay Topic #1**

Length: 6-8 complete thoughts/sentences/independent clauses

Prompt: Provide a defense for the statement listed below. You must use at least one of the provided quotations from *Macbeth*. Provide your response on the opposite side of this page.

One of the most profound and disturbing themes in Shakespeare’s *Macbeth* involves the power that power exerts over an individual who has ascended to a post of authority. Under the influence of unchecked power, Macbeth takes actions that have serious and devastating consequences for himself and for other characters in the play. Once Macbeth has committed an act in which he uses power for negative ends, he finds it increasingly difficult to restrain himself from resorting to the perverted use of power. Ultimately, it his inability to distinguish the adaptive and maladaptive functions of power from one another that prevents him from realizing his potential greatness.

* “Let not light see my black and deep desires…." (I.iv.51)
* “Yet I do fear thy nature. It is too full o the milk of human kindness….Thou wouldst be great, Art not without ambition, but without The illness should attend it." (I.v.16-20).
* “Come, you spirits That tend on mortal thoughts, unsex me here, And fill me from the crown to the toe
* topful of direst cruelty!" (I.v.41-43).
* “…We but teach bloody instructions, which, being taught, return To plague th’ inventor" (I.vii.8-10)
* “O horror, horror, horror! Tongue nor heart Cannot conceive nor name thee!" (II.iii.63-64)
* “[B]lood will have blood." (III.v.121)
* “I have a strange infirmity, which is nothing To those that know me." (III.v.85-86)
* “Something wicked this way comes." (IV.1.45)
* “The spirits that know All mortal consequences have pronounc’d me thus: ‘Fear not, Macbeth, no man that’s born of woman Shall e’er have power upon thee.’" (V.iii.6-7)
* “The time approaches That will with due decision make us know What we shall say we have, and what we owe." (V.iv.17-19).

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