

## ***Macbeth* Essay & the Body Paragraph**

- **Topic Sentence** (mini-thesis statement- this is the main point of the paragraph- it's an opinion and supports your thesis statement)
- **Textual Evidence** (quotation) to support your first example: must be BLENDED
- **Commentary** (explanation of how the evidence supports claim/topic sent.)- at least 2 sentences
- **Textual Evidence** (quotation) to support your second example: must be BLENDED
- **Commentary** (explanation of how the evidence supports claim/topic sent.)- at least 2 sentences
- **Concluding Sentence** (wrap up the main point of the paragraph/ summarize the paragraph)

### **EXAMPLE:**

Thesis of essay: The reason murder is always wrong is that murder leads to chaos and destruction, no matter what the circumstances.

Topic Sentence of Body Paragraph:

Murder, as shown in *Macbeth*, leads to agonizing deaths for the perpetrators.

Everything that follows has to support that sentence. Here we go:

Murder, as shown in *Macbeth*, leads to agonizing deaths for the perpetrators. For example, Lady Macbeth sleepwalks through her castle fervently trying to wash nonexistent blood from her hands as she asks, “Yet who would have thought the old man to have so much blood in him?” (V.V.37-39) Lady Macbeth loses all reason and then commits suicide to escape the torment that comes from convincing her husband to murder the King of Scotland. A murdered victim’s blood, literally and metaphorically, is too much for a killer to bear. This holds true for Macbeth, himself. Macbeth cries out to his enemy, Macduff, “But get thee back! My soul is too much charged with blood of thine already” (V.VIII. 5-6). Macbeth knows he is about to die, yet he wants no part of his former friend because he feels such guilt after slaughtering Macduff’s wife and young children. In addition, Macbeth faces death pretty much alone. His friends desert him, and his country is falling apart. Again, this proves that murder leads to destruction and chaos.

### **PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER-- THESIS AND ONE BODY PARAGRAPH:**

Some believe murder is justified, especially when a hated dictator or mass murderer is assassinated. However, murder is always wrong despite the circumstances, because the act leads to chaos and destruction. William Shakespeare’s famous tragedy *Macbeth* provides several examples of how murder creates disastrous results.

Murder, as shown in *Macbeth*, leads to agonizing deaths for the perpetrators. For example, Lady Macbeth sleepwalks through her castle fervently trying to wash nonexistent blood from her hands as she asks, “Yet who would have thought the old man to have so much blood in him?” (V.V.37-39) Lady Macbeth loses all reason and then commits suicide to escape the torment that comes from convincing her husband to murder the King of Scotland. A murdered victim’s blood, literally and metaphorically, is too much for a killer to bear. This holds true for Macbeth, himself. Macbeth cries out to his enemy, Macduff, “But get thee back! My soul is too much charged with blood of thine already” (V.VIII. 5-6). Macbeth knows he is about to die, yet he wants no part of his former friend because he feels such guilt after slaughtering Macduff’s wife and young children. In addition, Macbeth faces death pretty much alone. His friends desert him, and his country is falling apart. Again, this proves that murder leads to destruction and chaos.