Power and manipulation wasn’t really important in Macbeth until the witches had appeared to Macbeth and told him that he would be receiving new titles. In Act 1, it showed how strong Macbeth was when he beheaded a soldier from the opposing country and was known as a merciless soldier. The witches had a major role to play in how Macbeth had the idea of killing Duncan in his head. Lady Macbeth also played an important role in manipulating her husband. She had encouraged him to kill Duncan so that she would be able to become the queen. The lust for power outmatched morals in this play which is why many people had died. Guilt also played a major role in how Macbeth treated people because it forced Macbeth to use his power to kill anyone that opposed him. Macbeth’s guilt made him seek out the death of Banquo, one of his closest friend, as well as Banquo’s son, Fleance. The prophecy of the witches also stated that Banquo’s sons would become kings, which made Macbeth feel like he would lose his power as king. Power and manipulation are eventually the reason for Macbeth’s death because he reign was based on lies and deception.

In *Macbeth*, Shakespeare demonstrates that power can corrupt anyone, even the best of people. He portrays this through Macbeth, who is corrupted by the power of being king. Macbeth is originally a good person who is a war hero and is liked by almost everyone. However, when he kills the King, the power he gets begins to corrupt him. He begins to kill any opposition to his reign, and he even kills his friends in order to ensure he remains in power. He abuses his power and manipulates others to follow him and make them believe that they can trust him. This ultimately leads to his demise at the end of the play. Despite all of this, Shakespeare is also saying that power does not always corrupt people, which he shows through King Edward and Duncan. When Duncan ruled, he was liked by his subjects, he took care of his subjects, and he did not abuse his power. King Edward is loved by his subjects, and uses his power as king and his healing power to help the citizens in his country. So through Macbeth and other characters in his play, Shakespeare illustrates that even though it does not always happen, power can corrupt even the best of people.

**Quotes: (Power and *Macbeth*)**

**Thesis:** The more power someone contains, the harder the struggle to keep it from consume their whole life. (or topic sentence with author/title included)

**Context:** The following is stated as Macbeth is talking the murderers into disposing of Banquo for him.

**Quote:** “Both of you / Know Banquo was your enemy” (3.1.113-114)

**Explanation:** At first the murderers are skeptical about killing Banquo but Macbeth is manipulating them into his own personal servants.

**Elaboration:** He says that all men are men regardless of the things that they have done. He, in the quote above, even said that the world is better off without Banquo and that he has always been their enemy.

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**Thesis:** Even though it does not always happen, power can corrupt even the best of people.

**Context:** When Macbeth and Banquo are heading back from the battle, they encounter the three witches who tell Macbeth some astonishing news.

**Quote:** “All hail, Macbeth! Hail to thee, Thane of Cawdor! / All hail, Macbeth, that shalt be king hereafter!” (I.iii.50-51).

**Explanation:** The witches tell Macbeth that he will be Thane of Cawdor and also the King in the future. By telling Macbeth of this future power, they are effectively manipulating him, since they know that this will start a domino effect of events. Although there is no way to prove the witches’ prophecies to be true, the very idea of having this power is intriguing to Macbeth and gets him thinking about murdering the King.

**Elaboration:** This idea of power is what Shakespeare is warning us of. He is showing that the very idea of power can corrupt some people to think and do things that they would not normally do. He also demonstrates that this can happen to even the best of people, since it happens to Macbeth and he is originally a war hero and good person.

**ESSAY:**

**Introductory Paragraph:** This is where the writer discusses the idea of “power” in general. What role does this play in society? How does it affect individuals? Is it necessary? Is it essential? Why is it important? **THESIS:** This makes an arguable statement in regard to power (and will ultimately apply to both texts).

**First Body Paragraph: Winston / Power / *1984***  **>** Topic Sentence will be position about power in *1984* and relate to thesis as well. (Two quotes in this paragraph as evidence)

**Second Body Paragraph: Macbeth / Power / *Macbeth* >** Topic Sentence will be position about power in *Macbeth* and relate to thesis as well. (Two quotes in this paragraph as evidence)

**Third Body Paragraph:** Compare/Contrast of Macbeth and 1984 > Topic sentence will include both stating your position regarding the two. No quotes are required for this paragraph but remember NOT to use first person.

**Conclusion:** Wrap up by going back to intro and the discussion of power. (Similar to Research Paper)

**KEEP IN MIND:**

* Correct spelling of character’s names!!!
* Using capital letters with proper nouns
* Citing line correctly
* Four line heading – really?
* Play in Italics
* Difference between explanation and elaboration (the elaboration answers the “so what?” portion of the essay – YOUR ARGUMENT!)
* No say, “This quote occurs,” “Macbeth is saying,” “This quote says,” ...
* Capitalize the word “king” when you are referring to a particular king (whether named or not) , but not otherwise.