Max Shi HLI 114

Professor Cihan Artun

Peer Review of Wilson Jang's Essay 1 Rough Draft

- 1. The thesis of the paper is that fate and free will in Macbeth are presented as two sides to the same coin, which is introduced in the first paragraph of the paper.
- 2. The thesis leaves a bit of the question of how the two subjects are presented as two sides of the same coin. Maybe an angle, or talking about the two different halves of the story in the introduction paragraph could help.
- 3. I think this claim can be proved with evidence, but needs a little more specificity to move further away from being able to see it with observation. Fate and free will are really already two sides of the same coin, but how does the play make it so?
- 4. The thesis misses out on the second part of the assignment question, asking how fate and free will are problematized in the story.
- Body paragraph 1 gives an outline of the first and second halves of the story, contrasting how Macbeth uses his free will to both make the prophecy come true and also fail to avoid the prophecies. This presents the aspect of how fate and free will are closely related.

Body paragraph 2 introduces a secondary source that argues that Macbeth is merely a puppet of fate, and has no control over his free will. This relates to the close relationship between the two, but also provides some distance between them, suggesting that free will has no impact on the fates.

Body paragraph 3 goes to refute some of the points made in paragraph 2, where free will is seen to dictate how Macbeth reaches his fates, as the witches did not provide the path they go on. Thus, this closes the distance between the two concepts.

The final paragraph emphasizes better the relationship between fate and free will, that it is free will that determines how fate is achieved. Though this brings together the relationship between the two, I believe that this idea is a much stronger thesis.

- 6. The paragraphs are in an effective order, and flow logically between them while staying relevant to the thesis.
- 7. The writer does not summarize the text in the essay.
- 8. The paper engages with the text well, but does some paraphrasing that could be made better with direct quotes to the text. For example, the first half of the first body paragraph is mostly paraphrased, and the third body paragraph is also paraphrased.
- 9. All quotes are introduced, quoted, cited, and discussed properly.
- 10. The quotations all fit with the paper.
- 11. The quote from the play should include Shakespeare's name in the citation on the second page.
- 12. The secondary source is scholarly.
- 13. The secondary source contributes to the argument by arguing that Macbeth and our interpretation of Macbeth have the dilemma of being either of fates assigned to him or him using his own free will to tangle with fates and try to change them. This contributes to the duality idea of being two sides to a coin.

- 14. The third body paragraph is the most successful in terms of textual analysis. Aside from some quotes that would help solidify the argument, the analysis compares the character of Macbeth before the fates were given to him and after the fates were given to him, showing how fates changed his free will and character, adding to the duality of the two concepts in the story.
- 15. The first body paragraph is the least successful in terms of textual analysis. It seems to be very close to summarizing the story, with the analysis really happening at the end of the paragraph. Perhaps fate and free will could have been better used to analyze the first half of the story, where Duncan happens to come to Macbeth's castle as an act of fate.
- 16. There are no moments where I lost the writer's train of thought.
- 17. There are no moments of reading comprehension problems.
- 18. Some action points:
 - a. I think you should make your thesis a bit more specific, therefore it will be easier to argue your points through each paragraph and your analysis can be more in-depth.
 - b. I would attempt to use more direct quotes from the text combined with explanations instead of paraphrasing it's much more convincing to see the direct quote along with your reasoning compared to paraphrasing, where your voice is in the quote.
 - c. Definitely look back to answer the question about how fate and free will are problematized in the play, I think you missed this point in the thesis.
- 19. There is no works cited page, which is something that needs to be added to cite the play and the secondary source.