

Sean T.

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English I

## Romeo and Juliet Essay

Throughout history men have shown violence. In the play “The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet,” by William Shakespeare, male violence is displayed between two feuding families. Today male violence is displayed between rival groups or gangs. The male violence that is seen in the play “The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet” is similar to male violence seen today with rival gangs or groups.

Male violence occurs when men fight to protect and defend the group they are apart of. For example, a fight starts between the servants of the two feuding families in the play because of their master’s feud. The motive of this violence is to defend the family they work for and to make themselves feel apart of the group. The servants feel it is valiant to fight for their masters. A servant named Gregory says, “The quarrel is between our masters and us their men.” Another servant responds with “Tis all one. I will show myself a tyrant. When I have fought with the men, I will be civil with the maids; I will cut off their heads.” By saying this, the servants put themselves in the feud. They make it their fight, even though it really is not their fight. This shows how the men want to fight for the group they are apart of. Male violence is fueled by the need to protect and defend the members of the group. This will lead to more violence because people are taking sides and wanting to fight the opposing side. Mercutio is a good example of this. Mercutio, a friend of Romeo Montague, is killed in a sword fight with

Tybalt, a member of the Capulet family, when he fights to defend Romeo. The fight occurs on a street in Verona because Mercutio wants to defend Romeo's honor. Mercutio is killed because Mercutio loves fighting and these people do not like each other. Mercutio is not part of either feuding family, but he is still fighting for one side. Romeo kills Tybalt to revenge the death of his friend. Violence leads to more violence. Revenge is the reason feuds seem to never end. These fights in "The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet" show how male violence comes when men are protecting and defending their group.

The same type of violence that is seen in "The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet" is seen today as a result of groups of people feuding. For example, a nineteen year old boy is killed by a rival group of boys. The two groups of boys have been feuding for several years. This killing is similar to the killing of Mercutio in "The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet," because the reason for the violence is a feud between two groups that do not like each other. In another act of violence seven men are attacked by fifty men of a rival gang with weapons, including a sword. The motive for the attack is a bitter feud between the two gangs that has been going on for two years. Their feud does not end because each gang has to retaliate against the other for any attacks on them, just as Romeo took revenge against Tybalt for killing Mercutio in "The Tragedy on Romeo and Juliet." Violence is violence in the time that Romeo was in and today in the time that the nineteen year old boy is killed.

Protecting and defending the group is a common reason for male violence in the play and also for male violence today. Some of the reasons the groups are fighting today may be very different from the reasons in the play but the basic reason still is usually protecting the interests of the group. This is why male violence today is similar to male violence in the play, “The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet.”

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