**Critical Essay Skeleton Plan**

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| **Essay Title:**  Choose a play in which there is a scene involving heightened tension or emotion. By referring to appropriate techniques, explain how the heightened tension or emotion is presented and discuss how it contributes to your appreciation of the play as a whole.  Introduction:  Brief summary of "Romeo and Juliet"  Act 3, Scene 1 as a pivotal moment of heightened tension and emotion  Through the use of various techniques (name the ones you will look at), Shakespeare presents intense tension and emotion in Act 3, Scene 1, contributing significantly to the audience's appreciation of the play as a whole. |
| **Key Point 1:**  Conflict - Description of the Verona streets as a tense and volatile environment  **The evidence to support this idea is:**  “Here in Verona, ladies of esteem, are made already mothers"  **How this relates back to the essay question:**  **Setting, theme, the ongoing feud between the Capulets and Montagues – creating tension between the characters** |
| **Key Point 2:**  **Characterisation of Tybalt as aggressive and vengeful**  **The evidence to support this idea is:**  "Tybalt, the reason that I have to love thee doth much excuse the appertaining rage to such a greeting"  **How this relates back to the essay question:**  **Romeo’s reluctance to fight with Tybalt due to his love for Juliet.**  **Analyse the conflicting emotions and motivations of the characters.** |
| **Key Point 3:**  **Dramatic techniques employed to heighten Emotion**  **The evidence to support this idea is:**  "A plague o' both your houses!" , "O, I am fortune's fool!"  **How this relates back to the essay question:**  Use of dramatic irony as the audience knows the consequences of the characters' actions Foreshadowing of tragedy through Mercutio's curse  Analysis of Romeo's realization of the consequences of his actions, adding to the emotional intensity |
| **Key Point 4:**  The Duel and Its Aftermath Description of the escalating tension during the duel between Tybalt and Mercutio  **The evidence to support this idea is:** "Ask for me tomorrow, and you shall find me a grave man"  **How this relates back to the essay question:**  Analysis of the pivotal moment when tension reaches its peak and emotions run high |
| **Key Point 5:**  The impact of the key scene - Romeo's retaliation against Tybalt, leading to his banishment  Juliet's grief upon learning of Tybalt's death and Romeo's exile  **The evidence to support this idea is:**  "Beautiful tyrant! fiend angelical!"  **How this relates back to the essay question:**  Analysis of how the aftermath of the scene contributes to the overall tragedy and emotional depth of the play |
| **Conclusion:**  Recap of the significance of Act 3, Scene 1 in "Romeo and Juliet"  Restatement of how Shakespeare utilizes various techniques to create heightened tension and emotion  Final thoughts on the scene's contribution to the audience's appreciation of the play's themes and complexities.  What is Shakepeare trying to teach us? Are any of his themes / actions of his characters relevant today? |