

Mr. Francis  
E3-EL

## English Regents Part 4: The Critical Lens

### Your Task:

Write a critical essay in which you discuss Sophocles' Oedipus the King (c. 430 B.C.E.) and William Shakespeare's Macbeth (1606) from the particular perspective of the statement that is provided for you in the **Critical Lens** (choose one). In your essay, provide a valid interpretation of the statement, agree *or* disagree with the statement as you have interpreted it, and support your opinion using specific references to appropriate literary elements from the text.

### Critical Lenses:

1. "For what does it mean to be a hero? It requires you to be prepared to deal with forces larger than yourself."

—Norman Mailer (The Spooky Art, 2003)

2. "To gain that which is worth having, it may be necessary to lose everything else."

—Bernadette Devlin (The Price of My Soul, 1969)

3. "The bravest of individuals is the one who obeys his or her conscience."

—J. F. Clark (adapted)

### Guidelines:

#### Be sure to

- Provide a valid interpretation of the critical lens that clearly establishes the criteria for analysis
- Indicate whether you agree or disagree with the statement as you have interpreted it
- Use the criteria suggested by the critical lens to analyze each text
- Eschew plot summary. Instead, use specific references to appropriate literary elements (for example: theme, characterization, setting, point of view) to develop your analysis
- Organize your ideas in a unified and coherent manner
- Specify the title and author of the literature
- Follow the conventions of standard written English

Please use standard MLA format. The essay must be double-spaced, with one-inch margins all around. Please use a 12-point, Times New Roman font. All papers must have an appropriate and creative title. Length guideline: 2-3 pages. No coversheets.

You will be expected to submit a one-page proposal. You must complete a full rough draft to be peer edited in class. The proposal and your peer-edited rough draft should be attached with a staple to your final drafts.

Adapted from the New York State English Language Arts Regents Examination.