**Fate vs Free Will**

Romeo and Juliet are described as “star-crossed lovers”, meaning they were fated to meet, love, and die. However, people have the power of choice. Were Romeo and Juliet slaves to their fate, or did their choices dictate the outcome of their situation? Could they have changed their fate at any point?

Look at the actions and choices of both Romeo and Juliet throughout the play. At what points could each have made choices to alter their fate so that they survived? What course would their lives have taken and how would they play have ended had they acted differently?

**Make a chart or list** (side-by-side arrangement by Act):

* One part/column will be times when event**s** beyond R&J’s control interfere with their love/lives (unpredictable actions of others or world events = fate).
* In another column or part of your list, state the time**s** R&J enacted “free will” in each Act by making choices or taking action that moved them toward their “fate” of death.
* In a third part or column (again, by Act) state what choices R&J could have made differently that had the potential to lead to a very different and more positive outcome.

Act I Fate Free Will Alternative Outcome

Act II Fate Free Will Alternative Outcome

Act III Fate Free Will Alternative Outcome

Act IV Fate Free Will Alternative Outcome

Act V Fate Free Will Alternative Outcome

**Write it up** (due by Friday):

Write a 1000-2000 word essay (2-4 pgs) in MLA format. Your thesis should state your opinion on whether R&J were fated to die or if their choices lead to their deaths. Support your opinion in the essay (as many paragraphs as needed) using quotes, summary of situations, paraphrases, and (of course) lots of commentary (your voice). Each paragraph should have a clear topic sentence (claim/point/argument).