The 3rd Murderer

**Background:**

You’re an investigator for Scotland’s royal police. After Malcolm’s successful takeover of the throne, he’s ordered you to bring all of Macbeth’s conspirators to justice. You and your fellow investigators have found, detained, and pressed charges against everyone who helped Macbeth with his bloody reign with one exception—the third murderer who helped kill Banquo.

**Prompt:**

Write a formal report (that will take the format of a persuasive argument) that makes a convincing claim as to the identity of the third murderer and why (s)he appears in Act III, scene iii. Although some believe this may have been just an error in an earlier manuscript, you will support your choice and explain the identity according to whom you believe Shakespeare intended that extra person to be.

Some ideas could be: Ross (perhaps as a spy for Macduff), a third assassin hired by Macbeth (revealing his lack of confidence in others), Lady Macbeth (because of her curiosity and Macbeth's independence of her in making the decision), or even Macbeth himself appearing on the scene and stressing the point that he trusts no one, not even a paid servant. OR an original idea that you and your group members come up with.

**Directions:**

This is a collaborative writing assignment. You MUST work together or you will not be able to complete it! Every single writing decision will be made as a group. This means that your papers should be EXACTLY the same (except for handwriting) down to the last comma or conjunction. This might seem silly at first, but as you go, you will realize that this process makes it necessary to discuss every writing decision that you make and justify it. This is GREAT practice for you!

**Brainstorming:**

You and your group members need to make sure that you include every part of a powerful argument!

Claim:

Argument:

 1.

 2.

Counterclaim: What would a reason be that someone would say this person could not be guilty? OR Who is a DIFFERENT person someone may argue is guilty? (Remember—You have to disprove this theory)

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**Outlining:**

Introduction—

Hook: An interesting or powerful question, fact, or description that will draw the reader in.

Background: What are the circumstances regarding your writing of this argument (refer to background on the first page)

Claim: (restate from brainstorming)

**Body Paragraph 1:**

Reason (Topic) 1:

Evidence #1: (each should be 5 words or less—make sure you cite it correctly! (ACT SCENE LINE)

So What? (What does your evidence and explanation show about your CLAIM?)

Evidence #2: (each should be 5 words or less—make sure you cite it correctly! (ACT SCENE LINE)

So What? (What does your evidence and explanation show about your CLAIM?)

**Body Paragraph 2:**

Reason (Topic) 1:

Evidence #1: (each should be 5 words or less—make sure you cite it correctly! (ACT SCENE LINE)

So What? (What does your evidence and explanation show about your CLAIM?)

Evidence #2: (each should be 5 words or less—make sure you cite it correctly! (ACT SCENE LINE)

So What? (What does your evidence and explanation show about your CLAIM?)

**Body Paragraph #3**

Counterclaim: (Statement opposing claim/the other side—you could mention the argument of it being a “mistake” OR another character)

Rebuttal: (Reason why the counterclaim is not as strong as your argument)

**Conclusion**

Restate Claim:

Summarize Evidence:

Make broad recommendation to leave the reader with:

\*\*REMINDERS: Use OBJECTIVE TONE (no personal pronouns like I, YOU, WE, etc.) Use FORMAL tone (it should be serious and appropriate).