*Romeo and Juliet* Final Project

# Your Task

Write a persuasive letter from a member of the Catholic Church (this could be the Pope, Jesus, a priest, a nun, a church congregation, etc.) to a character or character(s) from *Romeo and Juliet*.

# Format

* General format
  + “Say what you’re going to say; say it; then, say you said it.” – Jean Ilsley
* Follow the MLA format for all citations.
* Design your letter like a normal letter would be – include a salutation as well as a sign off.

# Tips

* Take a stance. Because this is a persuasive letter, your reader should immediately know how you feel about a particular topic. Spend the rest of the letter proving your point.
* Write in present tense.
* Do NOT introduce any new information in the last paragraph. This is a summary.
* If you need to find out how the Church feels about something, google search catechism + your topic. You can also check out the attached “What Does the Church Say?” info sheet.

# Assessment

* Your marks will be entered as “Whole Unit Assessment.”
  + Comprehend and Respond
    - CR 9.7 – I can read independently and understand a variety of texts.
    - CR 9.6 – I can read, understand, and interpret a variety of grade level appropriate fictional texts to develop an insightful interpretation and response.
  + Compose and Create
    - CC 9.4 – I can use cues to construct and communicate meaning.
    - CC 9.8 – I can write to persuade in a letter.

*There are a few ways that you could organize your writing. Check out the sample outline below. You may need to include more or fewer sentences.*

**Sample Outline**

1. Salutation
   1. Example: Dear Romeo,
2. First Paragraph
   1. Introduce “yourself”
   2. Explain why you are writing
   3. Any other relevant background info
   4. Introduce your three key points in one sentence
   5. Thesis (introduces the topic and how you feel about it)
3. Second Paragraph
   1. Topic Sentence (first point)
   2. Quote or example
   3. Church’s opinion
   4. Advice
4. Third Paragraph
   1. Topic Sentence (second point)
   2. Quote or example
   3. Church’s opinion
   4. Advice
5. Fourth Paragraph
   1. Topic Sentence (strongest point)
   2. Quote or example
   3. Church’s opinion
   4. Advice
6. Fifth Paragraph
   1. Restated thesis
   2. Remind the reader of your three key points.
   3. Reiterate why you are writing
   4. Final words of advice
7. Sign Off
   1. Example: Regards,

Father Bob

What Does the Church Say?

# The Great Commandment of Love

*“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. You shall love your neighbor as you love yourself.”*

# The Golden Rule

*“Treat others the way you would want to be treated”.*

# Consistent Ethic of Life

The church believes that all human life, from womb to tomb, deserves protection and care. God is the author of life and death. God decides when life begins and ends.

# The Beatitudes (Translated)

Happy are those who need God.

Happy are those who love with all their hearts.

Happy are the merciful.

Happy are those with self- control.

Happy are the peacemakers.

Happy are those who suffer for doing what is right.

Happy are those who hunger and thirst for holiness.

Happy are those who are sorry for their sins.

# The Ten Commandments

1. You shall honor no other god but me.

2. You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

3. Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day.

4. Honor your father and your mother.

5. You shall not kill.

6. You shall not commit adultery.

7. You shall not steal.

8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

9. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife.

10. You shall not covet your neighbor’s goods.

**Sample Persuasive Letter**

Dear Mr. Bruno Scruffy,

We have lived together in turmoil for a long time. I would like to call a truce. In the five years we’ve been roommates, not one moment has been a peaceful. We fight over everything. While I admire your confidence, you tend to be selfish. I would like to strike up a compromise regarding a few matters: who gets the living room in the afternoon when the sun is the warmest, who gets to sit with Roger while watching cooking shows, and when Roger and I can go for exercise. I know that we can live in harmony, and I would like to divide our time equitably between the three aforementioned areas of concern.

The living room is the brightest, warmest room in the house, yet you seem to take ownership of it entirely. Often times, you will be relaxing in the kitchen whilst I am enjoying the sunshine. Out of nowhere, you kick me out and demand that the room belongs to you. This is both unfair and just plain mean. Roommate rules dictate that if one roommate is occupying another room and the other roommate is occupying a separate room, the room in which each person is occupying is theirs until such time as they are done using it, with the exception of individual bedrooms. Since this seems to be a difficult concept, I propose that we divide the living room time up by day – Monday, Wednesday, and Friday afternoons belong to me, and you can have Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday. This is more than fair.

Similarly, you monopolize the couch when Roger is watching TV. Many times, I will be enjoying a cooking show or two with Roger when, just like in the living room, you pounce between the two of us and snuggle up with Roger. Roommate rules state clearly that couch position should be shared equally by all stakeholders, in such a way that each individual gets to complete watching a show prior to a “Chinese fire drill” of couch positioning. Please let me watch one show in peace with Roger before taking over the couch.

Lastly, Roger and I need to spend more time together because Roger and I need more exercise. Many times, Roger and I will be on our way out the door for a walk, I presume to get away from you, when you choose to lie down in front of the door. This is again unfair and cruel. Roommate rules clearly explain that any time someone chooses to partake in an activity, provided it is completely safe and not harmful to self, others, or community, the roommates must not impede on the activity. Roger and I are both on the pudgy side, so it is imperative that we go for a walk. You are welcome to join us, but please let us go. Upon our return, you are welcome to spend the equal amount of time with Roger.

I am prepared to strike up a contract of equal time, and I am open to negotiation. I urge you to respond with your opinions regarding the living room, watching TV with Roger, and exercising with Roger. It is imperative that we come to a truce; otherwise, Roger may be forced to choose between us as roommates. I like you a little bit, and would be mildly sad to see you go. Please reflect on my propositions so that we three may live in harmony.

Respectfully yours,

Mr. Boxer Fuzzyboots