

Writing introductions and conclusions

1. Imagine you are directing the scene for a class performance. What advice will you give the actor playing Juliet?
2. How does Shakespeare use language to show Lord Capulet's feelings in this scene?
3. What impression do the audience get of Juliet in this scene?
4. How are the themes of love and hate revealed in this scene?

Look at the following introductions which have all been written by students in response to question 1. Discuss each one and decide which you think is the best and explain why:

- a. The actor playing Juliet needs to show a range of emotions through this scene as the character goes from anguish at the loss of Romeo to despair that everyone has abandoned her.
- b. I'm going to write about advising Juliet in the scene in which her father is mean to her; her mother abandons her and the nurse seems to give her different advice than earlier.
- c. If I was a director I would want to encourage the actor playing Juliet the various emotions that she will need to show in her language; her voice; her body language and her facial expressions.
- d. During this scene Juliet needs to show a variety of emotions and I would want to advise the actor that she needs to be able to play someone who goes from happiness at spending the wedding night with her husband to anger and feelings of betrayal at what her family do to her.

Now look at the following conclusions which have all been written as a final paragraph to question 1:

- a. I would give all the advice to Juliet because that will help her show her feelings more to the audience and they will feel as if they are her.
- b. In conclusion the actor playing Juliet would need to show a big range of emotions from crying in despair to determination that she will not be beaten by anyone.
- c. As I have said before I would make Juliet behave in various ways to show her changing feelings about what is happening to her. I would want the actor to be crying one minute and angry and shouting the next.
- d. Overall, the actor playing Juliet should display a range of emotions from initial sadness; determination; despair and betrayal.

After discussion you have a go at writing the introduction and conclusion to each of the three other essays on this sheet.