Prompts for Macbeth Essay

You will be graded on the following:

- 5 paragraph essay – the third body paragraph should be all analysis
- Thesis statement with a subordinate adverbial clause
- A scenario or anecdote
- Correctly integrated quotes – 4-5
- Sophisticated paragraph transitions

Choose one of the following topics to write an insightful, evocative essay revealing your deep understanding of Macbeth.

1. Discuss the relevance of the symbols of the play, blood, sleep or birds. Your third body paragraph should be the analysis of the universal message these symbols represent and how it supports the universal message (theme) of Macbeth.

2. Discuss the role of insanity and paranoia in the unfolding events of Macbeth. Your third body paragraph should be analysis of the universal message of insanity and paranoia (perhaps in conjunction with unbridled ambition?) and how it supports the universal message (theme) of Macbeth.

3. Discuss the role of equivocation in the play. Think Lady Macbeth, the witches (and by extension the apparitions), Malcolm testing MacDuff, Ross assuring Lady MacDuff that her husband is worthy, the thinly veiled sarcasm of Lennox, etc. Your third paragraph should be the universal message conveyed by equivocation and how it supports the universal message (theme) of Macbeth.

4. Discuss the assigning of blame and responsibility for the pernicious occurrences in Macbeth. Your third paragraph should be how these insights connect to the universal message (theme) of Macbeth.