



# ROMEO AND JULIET

The activity addresses  
Pennsylvania Core Standards:  
English Language Arts  
C.C.1.4.11-12.G, C.C.1.4.9-10.K,  
C.C.1.4.9-10.M, C.C.1.4.11-12.R

## THE VERONA TIMES

### Group Project



**Congratulations!** Your group is the new editorial team for *The Verona Times*, a local newspaper reporting on the daily events of Verona, Italy during the time of

Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. Your group will write several different articles detailing the events of the play for the public.

#### The Situation

Now that the events of *Romeo and Juliet* have transpired, your group needs to report to the city all that has occurred. The Montagues and Capulets are important families, and the events that took place in a handful of days will have a large impact on the community. Your group needs to accurately report the details of the story to give your community an unbiased account of the events that took place.

## The Project

Each member of your group will write a different article. Your newspaper needs to include the following articles:

### Lead Story

The lead article should be about the person you have decided is at fault for the tragic deaths of Romeo and Juliet. Use information from the play as evidence for their guilt. You will also report what punishment was decided would fit their crime.



### Obituary:

Choose one of the six characters who died in the play and write their obituary.

What can you tell the public about this character? Who were they, what did they do, who was their family, did they have any friends? Who in their life is still alive? Where and when will the funeral service be held? Would they want donations made to an organization in their honor?



**Interview:** Conduct an interview with one of the surviving main characters from the play. Ask them about the events of the story. What did they see and know? What will they do now? Ask at least five questions and answer creatively from the character's perspective.

**Letter to the Editor:** Write from the perspective of a concerned citizen of Verona. Now that the tragic events of the play have transpired, what happens next? Have the Montague and Capulet families really reconciled? What do you think will happen once the shock of the lovers' death wears off? What concerns remain?

\*The lead story, obituary, and interview should be written in the third person perspective. All articles should include a headline.

## The Process

### Step 1: Decide Roles

Split into groups of 4 students. Each person in your group will write one article. Review the articles and decide who will write what. Once you have decided, write down who is doing which article on the **planning tool**.

### Step 2: Brainstorm Your Article

Begin to draft your article. Use the play as the source for your information. Include specific scenes to support the argument you make in your article. Write down your outline and specific scenes you want to refer to on the **notetaking tool**.

### Step 3: Write Your Article

Once your research is complete, write a draft of your article. Share your draft with your team for edits (spelling, grammar, context) and apply those edits to your draft. Assist other members of your group with edits of their articles and title ideas for each article.

### Step 4: Design Your Newspaper

Once all articles have titles and are edited, design your newspaper! How do you want to format the paper to catch your audience's attention? What order will you place each article? Will you include pictures?



### Step 5: Share Your Paper

Once your newspaper is designed, share it with your class or another group. What do they like about the design of your paper? Did they think your articles were accurate and unbiased? Who did they report on in their paper?

## Planning Tool

Use this document to record article assignments for your group.

**Lead Story:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Obituary:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Interview:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Letter to the Editor:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Aesthetic Ideas:** What is the general vision for your newspaper? How will you design it to keep your audience's attention? How will you order your articles?

## Notetaking Tool: Lead Story

Who is at fault for the deaths of Romeo and Juliet?

What scenes support your argument?

Now that the character has been found guilty, what has the judicial system determined the punishment for the crime to be?

## Notetaking Tool: Obituary

Which character's obituary will you write?

What basic details will you include (name, age, date of birth, date and place of death, city of residence, who they left behind)?

What was their cause of death?

What did they do while they were alive? Likes, dislikes, hobbies, interests? Use information from the play to support your answer.

When and where will the funeral be held? Are the family requesting flowers or charitable donations, and if so, to where?

## Notetaking Tool: Interview

Who are you interviewing?

What is important for people to know from this interview?

What did this character witness? What did they know? How did this experience affect this character?

What was the character's role in the events of the play?

What other questions will you ask your character?

## Notetaking Tool: Letter to the Editor

What is your hook/thesis statement?

Why do you hold this view? What evidence from the play supports your argument?

What is the local impact from the events of the play? Which issues directly affect your community? How so?

What is your call to action? What needs to be done to address the issues identified?