In *formal* writing, answers should make a point, prove it, and explain how the proof proves the point.

1) **Point**
   - Write a clearly-worded topic sentence making a point.

2) **Proof**
   - Use examples and/or quotations to prove your point.

3) **Explanation**
   - Explain the proof. How does it prove the point? Discuss what the proof shows. Be analytical and imaginative. Use your brain.
   - As part of your explanation, you might do some or all of these:
     - Paragraph quotations; explain what a character’s words mean.
     - Discuss the situation during which a statement is made.
     - Explain why a quotation is significant: what does it reveal?
     - Comment on subtext: what meaning exists beneath the words?
     - Consider what is NOT said, what a character might have said but chose not to.

Lady Montague’s few words during the opening scene of *Romeo and Juliet* reveal a sensitive, peaceful soul. As the brawl between the Montagues and Capulets ends, her thoughts immediately turn to the welfare of her son, and she seeks out his friend, Benvolio, to learn more: “O, where is Romeo? Saw you him today? Right glad I am he was not at this fray” (I, i, 114-115). There is love in these words. Clearly, she knows that Romeo had not participated in the brawl. She must have looked for him as soon as she arrived at the scene. Moreover, she is happy that he did not participate in the fighting. Perhaps she wishes that her only son could remain immune somehow to the anger and violence that clearly infects Verona’s streets. Indeed, it might be through her influence that Romeo has become who he is, a young man capable of seeing beyond the family feud, perfectly willing to marry the daughter of the enemy. It should not surprise us to hear in the end that her heart fails when her son is banished from Verona.