English 10

***Romeo and Juliet***

**Pre-Reading Questions**

**Research Questions**

Alone or with a partner, research the answers to the following questions.

1. What were the attitudes and beliefs about marriage in Elizabethan Age? Specifically, what were the roles and status of the husband and wife?
2. What was the legal age of consent in Elizabethan England? What was the average age at which people got married at the time *Romeo and Juliet* was first written (1595)?
3. What was a **dowry**?
4. What role (if any) did “love” play in Elizabethan notions of marriage?
5. What are the most fundamental *differences* between marriage traditions in the Elizabethan era and modern society? Are there any *similarities*?

**Personal Opinion Questions**

1. Without consulting a dictionary (or the Internet), define **love**.
2. In your opinion, what is the *earliest* age at which a person (male or female) is capable of experience feelings of authentic romantic love (instead of just “raging hormones”)? Explain.
3. Consider the following two scenarios:
4. You are offered one million dollars. To get it, you must allow your parents to select a spouse for you. You may (if you choose) wait until you have finished any university before getting married. You are not permitted to get divorced, except in the case of domestic abuse or infidelity. Do you accept the deal? If not, is there a dollar amount that would convince to change your mind? Explain your choice.
5. You have two options: one, your parents choose your spouse for you (with the same guidelines listed above); two, you remain single for the rest of your life. Which do you choose? Why?
6. In your opinion, what **movies** depict an accurate, realistic, and believable example of “true love”? Which films *attempt* to do so, but fail? Explain your choices for both.