Macbeth – conflict essay feedback

# How do I introduce the main points?

The play explores the themes of the supernatural, deceit and ambition, but a large component is Macbeth’s inner conflict, his need for the crown and his wish to remain morally just (which eventually subsides). This conflict causes murder and Macbeth’s descent into madness. This conflict and stages of it are what moves the play along, beginning with Macbeth’s initial doubts, to his barbarous murders to his madness.

How do I write topic sentences?

At the beginning of the play, Macbeth's ambition tortures him, and he experiences an inner conflict: he wants the crown, but he wants to remain loyal to Duncan.

The inner conflict Macbeth experiences leads to his descent into madness immediately after he has committed the crime.

From the murder of Banquo onwards, Macbeth’s inner conflict is externalised, and he pursues a course of vicious savagery that is still not enough to give him the peace of mind he craves: his position as king is never secure.

# Which literary techniques should I discuss?

Dramatic irony

Foreshadowing / tragic inevitability

* Symbolism:
  + Dagger = murder
  + Blood = guilt
  + Washing / water = forgiveness
  + Sleep = innocence
* Turning point