Don't forget your works cited:

Works Cited

Shakespeare, William. “Romeo and Juliet.” *Collections*. Edited by Kylene Beers et al. Orlando: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015. 183-278.

It’s Friar LAURENCE, not LAWRENCE (most of you did this wrong)

Sample concession paragraph adapted from a student paper

It is clear that the Capulets are partially to blame for the death of the young couple because of Lord and Lady Capulet's contradicting statements. In Act One, Lady Capulet tells Juliet that she should be open to marriage and Paris in particular. But, later in the play, Lord Capulet forces Juliet to be with Paris, informing the lord that “[he] will make a desperate tender/ Of [his] child’s love. [He] think[s] that she will be ruled/ In all aspects by [him]” (3.4.153). This miscommunication is the first reason for the couple’s death. This quote is an example of the unfairness and the misuse of poor Juliet. When Juliet is informed of this contract, she has zero say in decision-making and no one supports her, not even the Nurse. Because Juliet was excluded from her parents’ decision-making, she could not forewarn the Friar and Romeo about her marriage. Because of the timing, it made it so much more difficult to be honest with her parents about Romeo and she was forced to keep her marriage with Romeo a secret. This was what was so fatal about their relationship. Juliet didn’t feel that she could be honest with her parents, and her dishonesty eventually led to over-complicated plans and death. Due to the Capulet’s impulsive decisions, the young couple had no chance to voice their own opinions.

The main problem most of you are running into is an excess of plot summary – a common error in literary analysis. You spend your whole paragraph telling me what happened (plot summary), but then you forget to tie it back to your thesis and your topic sentence (analysis). First, make a specific claim in your TS that is more centered on WHY that person is at fault vs. what they did (see the outline below – miscommunication vs they didn’t tell their parents). Then, shorten your summary – give the reader context and now you can explain *what* that character did. Then your analysis should explain *how* it's their fault and *how* this lead to R&J's deaths. Think about the implications and complications within that character's actions. Your analysis should take up more room in each body paragraph than your evidence does.

Also, don't forget you can change bits of your in-text citations to fit the flow of your sentence. Look at the example concession paragraph above. The author changed all of the "I" and "me" parts to "he" and "his" by putting the new word in brackets. I know this essay is more difficult because they play is only dialogue (this often results in a he said/she said format) but try to move some things around. If you feel like the quote you chose isn’t serving a purpose in your essay, come see me. We can either find something better, or we could talk about ditching a direct quote completely.

Organization

You should have 5 paragraphs total. Do not forget to add transitional language. Follow the guidelines below to help you with your paragraphs.

* Introduction
  + Consider naming the title and author and then providing a \*small\* summary of the play (emphasizing that they die in the end).
* Body paragraph 1
  + Concession paragraph
    - It is true that…
      * EX. It is true that Friar Laurence played a role in Romeo and Juliet's deaths.
    - It is undeniable…
    - It would be hard to argue that…
  + This paragraph is only conceding/defending this part of the argument, not refuting it.
* Body Paragraph 2
  + Your sub-claim #1
    - Despite \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,
      * EX. Despite the part Friar Laurence played, Romeo and Juliet are ultimately at fault because of their miscommunication.
* Body Paragraph 3
  + Your sub-claim #2 (the most important one)
    - Even more significantly…
      * EX. Even more significantly, Romeo and Juliet made their own choices and should be held accountable.
* Conclusion
  + You can do a sentence or two of summary, but you should focus on why is it important to know who is to blame? Can we learn anything?

\*\*Other notes: A lot of you are forgetting about your thesis when you do your analysis. Make sure you make the connection between your character's actions and the deaths of R&J. How did those actions lead to their deaths?

**In-text citations – you need least 3!**

Format – it's just like poetry. You need to have a slash in between each line. Also make sure your capitalization is correct.

"O, she doth teach the torches to burn bright! / It seems she hangs upon the cheek of night / Like a rich jewel in Ethiop's ear" (1.5.42-44). The parenthetical citation should be (Act. Scene. Lines)

If you cite the prologue, your parenthetical will be like this: (1.prologue.5-6).