**English 9: Essay topics for**

***A Midsummer Night’s Dream:***

*Choose ONE of the topics below to write a 5-paragraph, formal, argumentative essay. This essay will include the following format:*

* *introduction*
* *3 body paragraphs*
* *conclusion.*

*It will have the following elements: thesis statement, topic sentences, concluding sentences/transitions, title, proof from the text (direct quotations).*

1. In *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, Shakespeare portrays many of the characteristics of love, including the fact that it can often lead to confusion and frustration. Write an essay showing at least three ways Shakespeare creates confusion or frustration in the play.
2. Discuss how the four women (Helena, Hermia, Titania, and Hippolyta) are portrayed in this play. How are they realistic, how are they caricatures, how are they individuals? What seems to be the role of each in the delivery of the main themes of the play?
3. Many consider Puck as the most important character in the play. Do you agree or disagree? Why? Use specific evidence from the text to back up your claims.
4. Explain the role setting plays in the story. Why is the play set in Ancient Greece? What are the different settings within the play and how do they differ? Why do the scenes take place where they do?
5. Explore the significance of the play’s title, *A Midsummer Night’s Dream.* What is the play saying about the connections between reality, dreams, and the theatre?
6. The play presents several different couples: Theseus and Hippolyta,; Hermia and Lysander, Helena and Demetrius, Titania and Bottom, and Titania and Oberon. What aspects of love are explored in each of these relationships?
7. The idea of foolishness appears throughout the play. Which characters are foolish? What is Shakespeare saying about people and foolishness overall?
8. *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* is classified as a comedy. Using evidence from the play, write an essay that explains why this play is funny. Address both humor within the actual text and ways in which the director can bring out the humor depending on the audience.
9. As you personally see it today, what is the nature of love? How does *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* refute or prove your position?