

Name Ms E ♥

Romeo and Juliet

Argument Essay

Directions: Closely read the four texts provided for you and write an evidence-based argument on the topic below. You may use the margins to take notes as you read and scrap paper to craft your response. Write your response on loose-leaf paper.

Topic: *Is love at first sight possible?*

Your Task: Carefully read each of the four texts provided. Answer the multiple-choice questions that follow each text. Then, using evidence from at least three of the four texts, *write a well-developed argument essay about whether or not love at first sight is possible*. Clearly establish your claim, distinguish your claim from alternate or opposing claims, and use specific and relevant evidence from all three texts to develop your argument. Do not simply summarize each text.

Guidelines:

Be sure to:

- Establish your claim about whether or not love at first sight is possible
- Distinguish your claim from alternate or opposing claims
- Use specific, relevant, and sufficient evidence from at least three texts to develop your argument
- Identify the source that you are referring by text number and line number(s)
- Organize your ideas in a cohesive and coherent manner
- Maintain a formal style of writing
- Follow the conventions of standard written English

Texts:

Text 1: **Why You Shouldn't Believe in Love at First Sight**

Text 2: **The science of love at first sight**

Text 3: **The Realities of Love at First Sight- How fast can you really size up a partner?**

Text 4: **Is Love at First Sight a Real Thing?**

TEXT #1: Why You Shouldn't Believe in Love at First Sight

I can't help but take a moment's pause when I hear people profess to have experienced love at first sight; likewise, when men and women recount how they just knew their now-partners were their soul mates within minutes of meeting them. Are these sentiments possible to experience or are they, more likely, the projection of long-held fantasies -- stories people construct to tell themselves and the world around them that they made the best possible decisions in life and love? Frankly, the answer to why people say these sorts of things isn't important to me, but, as a dating coach, what is important is the way others may respond to such notions and impossible standards and the ensuing pressure they may feel to live up to them in their own love lives.

* Lust at first sight, yes. Chemistry within minutes of meeting someone, sure. But knowing and feeling love and forever marriage instantly? Sorry, not buying it. In today's heady world of smartphones and texting and Tweeting, we might very well fool ourselves into believing that instant gratification can also apply to matters of the heart. If I can send and receive communication immediately, why can't I be in love with or love someone immediately? Just watch a few episodes of ABC's *The Bachelor/ette* to see this notion of instant love in action - within three to four weeks of meeting the Bachelor or Bachelorette, while competing against 25 others for his or her heart, the "contestants" are already falling madly in love and declaring it so to the object of their affection. The phrase is bandied about more than a "get it, girl!" at a toddler beauty pageant.

What does it mean to be in love or to love someone in the romantic sense, anyway? It sounds simple, but I think to love someone is to really know that person. But when we throw the term around so liberally, especially before really knowing someone, we ultimately dilute its meaning -- what it actually means to accept someone's heart and to give that person yours, fully. We also, as I mentioned, set up wildly unrealistic expectations for anyone looking for love, as if love has to be something that is experienced immediately.

* In my work with women, I am constantly trying to snap them out of their fantasies when it comes to dating and love. It took years for me to learn these lessons: that love isn't about being swept off your feet, quickly winning someone over, feeling that elusive-yet-perfect lightning bolt from the very first meeting or feeling emotionally off-kilter. The seedlings of love begin when you let someone in the door. But, as I have learned, love only flourishes when you allow that person to come inside and stay awhile. It takes time to develop trust, vulnerability and real intimacy. It's not just about the good times and laughs (that's the easy stuff!); it's about loving someone despite their idiosyncrasies. It's not just about great romance; it's also about feeling a sense of peace, comfort and emotional safety with someone. These things take time to develop.

We can't know if we love someone just by seeing them from across a crowded room; we can't know we are meant to be with someone after ten minutes of meeting them. So when you hear people talk like this, do not feel pressure to measure up to their notions of the perfect love tale. Understand that, often times, these are the fantasies people want to believe in, these are the romantic stories people choose to tell themselves and the world only after their love has had time to grow, after they've had time for a bit of a rewrite.

Great support for it's not possible!

- Lust
- It takes time to develop imp. aspects of relationships.

1. The author's main purpose in writing the article is:
 - A. to encourage people to give up the belief that real love is instantaneous
 - B. to encourage people to keep searching for the "perfect love tale."
 - C. to extol the belief that true love happens in one glorious moment
 - D. to criticize the current culture of "instant gratification."

2. The author uses allusions to smartphones, tweeting and ABC's *The Bachelor* (ette) to provide evidence that:
 - A. people today need technology to find love
 - B. people in our society expect to get what they want quickly
 - C. love can no longer exist in the modern world
 - D. love and technology should never mix

TEXT #2: The science of love at first sight

Biologists believe that love is fundamentally a biological rather than a cultural construct. That is because the capacity for love is found in all human cultures and similar behavior is found in some other animals, such as prairie voles. In humans the purpose of all the cravings, craziness and desire is to focus attention on the raising of offspring. Children demand an unusual amount of nurturing, and two parents are better than one. Love is a signal that both partners are committed, and makes it more likely that this commitment will continue as long as is necessary for children to reach independence. But what does science have to say about the notion of love at first sight?

In recent years the ability to watch the brain in action has offered a wealth of insight into the mechanics of love. Researchers have shown that when a person falls in love a dozen different parts of the brain work together to release chemicals that trigger feelings of euphoria, bonding and excitement. (These include dopamine, oxytocin, adrenalin and vasopressin.) It has also been shown that the unconditional love between a mother and a child is associated with activity in different regions of the brain from those associated with sexual, pair-bonding love.

Passionate love is rooted in the reward circuitry of the brain—the same area that is active when humans feel a rush from cocaine. In fact, the cravings, motivations and withdrawals involved in love have a great deal in common with addiction. Its most intense forms tend to be associated with the early stages of a relationship, which then give way to a calmer attachment form of love one feels with a long-term partner. This has a slightly different chemistry but still involves the reward centers of the brain. What all this means is that one special person can become chemically rewarding to the brain of another. Love at first sight, then, is only possible if the mechanism for generating long-term attachment can be triggered quickly. There are signs that it can be. One line of evidence is that people are able to decide within a fraction of a second how attractive they find another

person. This decision appears to be related to facial attractiveness, although men also favor women with a waist-to-hip ratio of 0.7, no matter what their overall weight is. (This ratio may indicate a woman's reproductive health.)

Another piece of evidence in Cupid's favor comes from work by Ayala Malack-Pines, a psychologist at Ben-Gurion University in Israel, who found in a survey that a small fraction (11%) of people in long-term relationships said that they began with love at first sight. In other words, in some couples the initial favorable impressions of attractiveness triggered love which sustained a lengthy bond. It is also clear that some couples need to form their bonds over a longer period, and popular culture tells many tales of friends who become lovers. One might also speculate that if a person is looking for a partner with traits that cannot be quantified instantly, such as compassion, intellect or a good sense of humor, then it would be hard form a relationship on the basis of love at first sight. Those more concerned only with visual appearances, though, might find this easier. So it appears that love at first sight exists, but is not a very common basis for long-term relationships.

3. The author references "cravings, motivations and withdrawals" to make a connection between
 - A. the similar feelings of hatred and addiction
 - B. the similar feelings of love and addiction
 - C. the differing feelings of hatred and love
 - D. the differing feelings of love and addiction
4. The author concludes with which idea?
 - A. Love at first sight certainly does not exist in modern society.
 - B. Love at first sight leads to fulfilling long term relationships.
 - C. Love at first sight happens more often because of technology.
 - D. Love at first sight exists, but is rare for long term relationships to have started that way.

only 11%

TEXT #3: The Realities of Love at First Sight- How fast can you really size up a partner?

You walk into a party and decide to get a soda. Suddenly someone is beside you, offering to pour it for you. You begin to talk. Almost immediately you're struck by the eerie feeling that you may have just found Mr. or Mrs. Right. But that's crazy, isn't it? Or is it? Can a person really know something this life-changing so fast?

Yes. We are built to instantly size up a potential partner, an intuitive skill that likely developed millions of years ago as our forebears struggled to rapidly sort friends from enemies. And, although our needs have changed in the modern world, we regularly make up our minds about whether an individual could be an appropriate match within the first three minutes of talking to him (or her).

Indeed, it takes less than one second to decide whether you find someone physically attractive. Too short, too tall, too old, too young—this person is out. If, however, he or she fits your general concept of beauty, your mind races toward the next checkpoint: voice. Once again, you respond in seconds. For instance, women typically regard rapid talkers as more educated and men with full, deep voices as better-looking than they are. Additionally, we like people who use the same kinds of words we use. We are also drawn to those who have a similar degree of intelligence, share our religious and social values, and come from the same economic

background—and we quickly determine these attributes from the words he or she uses (not to mention attire, hairstyle, and accessories like jewelry or tattoos).

But can this stranger give you what you need? Even on the bigger questions, we often form an opinion within the first three minutes if the conversation turns to, say, politics or kids. So when you do feel an immediate click, go ahead and trust your instincts.

supports it is possible

Still, love at first sight doesn't happen to everyone. In one survey by Ayala Malach-Pines, PhD, of Ben-Gurion University in Israel, only 11 percent of the 493 respondents said their long-term relationships started that way. As for the rest of us? Psychologists say that the more you interact with a person you like (even slightly), the more you come to regard this person as good-looking, smart, and similar to you—unless you discover something that breaks the spell. So it's wise to hang in for a second meeting. It can take years sometimes for two people to fully appreciate each other. But whether it's love at first sight or love in hindsight, those first three minutes are essential for romance.

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5. The purpose of the first line of the article, "You walk into a party and decide to get a soda" is to

- A. establish what life is like for a single person.
- B. engage the reader with a real life experience.
- C. portray single life as lonely.
- D. enrage the reader and keep them entertained.

6. The last piece of information from the last paragraph uses

- A. personal accounts of love at first sight to prove the argument.
- B. social media and television to prove the argument.
- C. statistics gained through a survey to prove the argument.
- D. historical facts about love at first sight to prove the argument.

TEXT #4: Is Love at First Sight a Real Thing?

Great idea for Intro - general comments!

Listen to enough pop songs and watch enough romantic movies, and you're bound to start believing that love at first sight happens all the time. But does it exist in the real world, between real people?

Like so much about love, the question of love at first sight can't be answered objectively. But I'll do my best to answer it here in the most helpful way.

Is Your Mind Playing Tricks on You?

Have you ever seen someone and instantly felt attracted to every part of them, including their personality (even though you haven't even talked to them yet)?

Supports it is not possible

You might be quick to call it love at first sight, but it's probably what psychologists call the attractiveness halo effect. When you see someone who looks great, your brain sometimes jumps to the conclusion that their personality must be great, too.

We all know that not everyone's looks and personalities match up.

Some attractive people are total jerks, and some of the best people in the world aren't what you'd necessarily think of as hot. So the halo effect is really just an illusion. Your sudden feelings of love might go away as soon as you get to know the person better.

halo effect

Love: More than Just Looks

Everyone's got a different take on what love is, but few people believe that's made out of stuff you can find just by looking at someone. Love (at least if you ask me) is made up of compromise, empathy and patience. You can't give or get those sorts of things at first sight.

That doesn't mean that your initial feelings can't turn *into* love. When you first see someone, you might instantly know that you want to get close to them and learn about them.

As your relationship progresses, those feelings might eventually grow into love. But is "love" really the word for your gut reaction? Not unless your definition of love is kind of superficial.

When Couples "Just Know"

You might meet couples who say that when they saw each other for the first time, they "just knew." What did they really know? Probably that they liked how the other person looked and acted, and that they wanted to take things to the next step and get to know each other better.

If they want to call it "love at first sight," that's okay by me. But keep in mind that there are lots of other couples who get the same feeling when they meet each other, and it ends badly or doesn't go anywhere at all. It's not the first glance that makes it love. It's the stuff that comes later - the commitment and caring that makes a relationship last.

The Danger of Believing Too Strongly in Love at First Sight

You might be wondering why I'm giving love at first sight such a bad rap. It's not that I don't think the idea is sweet, or that I don't love me some romantic movies. (My favorite love at first sight scene has to be this one from Romeo and Juliet.)

But it's wrong to think that if you don't have intense feelings right away, it could never be love. Some of the best and strongest relationships started out in totally unromantic ways.

More importantly, though, the halo effect can be dangerous. If you see someone hot and assume that what you feel is love, you'll overlook qualities in them that could end up hurting you. You might let them get away with abusive behavior because your heart has taken over your better judgment.

danger in halo effect

So What's the Answer?

Whether or not you want to believe in love at first sight is up to you. Just don't go out there expecting to find it and get upset when you don't.

And when you meet someone you instantly swoon over, be aware that there's a whole lot about them you *haven't* seen yet - including some stuff that might not be so deserving of your love.

7. According to the article, the halo effect is

- A. when the planets align and people fall in love.
- B. when a person sees another as an angel and falls in love at first sight.
- C. when a person falls in love at first sight based on another's personality.
- D. when a person's mind makes them think that another's personality matches their attractiveness

8. The author of article four ends the article by warning that

- A. if it seems like love at first sight, ultimately there is much to learn about the person over time.
- B. love at first sight leads to fulfilling long term relationships.
- C. love at first sight happens more often because of technology.
- D. love at first sight exists, but is rare for long term relationships to have started that way.

Is love at first sight possible?

CLAIM- _____

INTRODUCTION- _____

TOPIC SENTENCE BODY #1- _____

TOPIC SENTENCE BODY #2- _____
