The Masque of the Red Death

**Question the Movie Trailer. *Contagion***

What does this trailer imply about *fear/death/prevention?*

**Essential Question(s)**

If we can’t escape death, why do we try so darn hard to prevent its arrival?

**Question the story. *The Masque of the Red Death***

 *“And Darkness and Decay and the Red Death held illimitable dominion over all.”*

What does Poe imply about death?

**Ok. So how does Poe say this in the frame of a gothic short story? Let’s check out Poe’s *Philosophy of Composition.***

1846 Essay by Poe offering his theory on how good writers write when they write well. He uses *The Raven* to highlight the important issues involved in writing well. Although Poe is categorized as part of the Romantic Movement, Dark Romantic to be specific, he offers a very classical and logical method to constructing his works. Some people look at his essay as a satire and a ploy for Poe to keep his readership.

1. Length – all words should be short. "a distinct limit... to all works of literary art - the limit of a single sitting."
2. Method – methodical and analytical, NOT spontaneous or intuitive.
3. Unity of Effect (Single Effect) – start with the ending emotion you want to create. Single effect leads to tone, theme, setting, plot, characters, conflict 🡨 GOTHIC STYLE.

**Activity**

**Create a 1 page gothic style story using poe’s philosophy of composition. we will read these stories next class! muahahahahahaha**

“the death, then, of a beautiful woman is, unquestionably, the most poetical topic in the world.”