

Literary Analysis Essay (100 points) | Due Nov. 17th

Prompt:

For this essay, you will be able to choose from the prompts below. Remember that this is a literary analysis. While you may use outside sources, your main source of support for your argument must include specific details, examples, and excerpts from the *The Odyssey*. Your essay must be a minimum of 1200 words up to a maximum of 1500 words and should follow MLA formatting standards.

- As we read the story of Odysseus' journey home, we see a struggle between the decrees of the divine and the choices of man (Odysseus himself, comrades from the war, his crew, the suitors, etc.). Which plays a larger role in Odysseus' suffering throughout the story – is it fate (the gods) or man's free will?
- Examine the role of women (both human and “divine”) in the development of *The Odyssey*. How does Homer characterize the various women? How do they impact Odysseus' journey home – are they a help or a hindrance? According to Homer, which traits embodied by the female characters deserve praise and which are viewed as defects? A complete essay will consider multiple examples of women (e.g., Penelope, Helen, Nausicaa, Athena, Circe, Calypso, Eurycleia, etc.).
- Homer retells the story of Agamemnon multiple times and from multiple viewpoints as a foil to Odysseus' tale. How does this retelling enhance the plot of the story? Through these stories, what more do we learn about Odysseus, Penelope, and Telemachus? What morals or lessons would the ancient reader have derived from the interweaving of these 2 well-known myths?
- If *Xenia* is so important to the ancient Greek, how can Homer justify the action Odysseus takes against the guests in his home? Is Odysseus justified in the choices he makes once in Ithaca and what does the end tell us about the ancient Greek ideal of justice? A complete essay will examine various forms of *Xenia* described in the story in comparison with Odysseus' actions, as well as an argument for or against his choices.

Due Dates

Wed, 10/27 **Thesis Statement** Emailed to tutor by class time

Wed, 11/3 **Sentence Outline + Works Cited** Outlines must be typed and submitted according to sentence outline found on Weebly

Wed, 11/10 **Rough Draft** Paper copy brought to class

Wed, 11/17 **Final Draft** Submitted to Turnitin and a paper copy brought to class. Attached to the back of the paper copy should be all previously graded drafts (thesis, outline, rough draft).