

## The Odyssey – Essay

### **The topic:**

The Greeks claim that *The Odyssey* is an epic poem celebrating one of their greatest heroes, Odysseus. But was Odysseus really a hero? Should he be celebrated for his great accomplishments? Or does he really cause more harm than good? Are the Greeks wasting their time celebrating a fool?

### **Your task:**

**1) Write a five paragraph essay with an introductory paragraph that contains a clear and specific claim, three supporting body paragraphs, and a conclusion that argues whether or not you believe Odysseus is a hero. Your essay should be clearly written and your position should be well supported with evidence/examples from the text and film. You will complete a brainstorming activity and an outline and attach to your completed essay.**

**2) Challenge Essay: Write a six-paragraph essay with an introductory paragraph that contains a clear and specific claim, three supporting body paragraphs, one counterclaim paragraph, and a conclusion that argues whether or not you believe Odysseus is a hero. You will complete a brainstorming activity and an outline and attach to your completed essay.**

### **Setting up your essay:**

1. Your heading should include your Name, Teacher's Name, Class/Period, Date

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2. You should come up with a title for your essay
3. Entire paper should be double spaced, including heading
4. DO NOT USE THE WORDS you, I, me, my, yours, etc. (personal pronouns)
  - a. "One" or "the reader" are good substitutes for the words above, or say "it is clear that"
5. Maintain the PRESENT TENSE throughout your essay
  - a. (change "was" to "is," almost no words that end in -ed)
6. Always underline or italicize the title of a major work, The Odyssey or *The Odyssey*

## Introduction: (6-8 sentences)

1. You should start with something interesting, a HOOK (a quote, a question, a moral, a vivid description of setting)
2. You should then briefly summarize the plot (4-6 sentences)
3. You should make a clear transition into your claim/thesis statement (1 sentence)
4. The claim/thesis statement should be your last sentence

The claim/thesis statement formula is: Odysseus is a hero/not a hero **because** in the epic poem he

- \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ .
- a. **Example: Odysseus is a hero because in the epic poem he looks out for his crew, puts his life at risk on multiple occasions, and stands up for what is right.**
  - b. **Example: Odysseus is not a hero because he cannot control his men, he is selfish, and he returns to Ithaca alone.**

## Body Paragraph #1: (6-8 sentences)

1. Write your **Topic Sentence** (1 sentence)
  - a. **Example: Odysseus is a hero because at the Land of the Cyclops, he executes the perfect plan to allow him and his men to escape Polyphemus' cave.**
  - b. Introduction of evidence, describe the scenario/context for your first bit of evidence
  - c. Supporting evidence from the text/film
  - d. Explain the importance of your evidence
  - e. Introduction of more evidence (transition to and introduction of your second bit of evidence)
  - f. Supporting evidence from the text/film
  - g. Explain the importance of your evidence
  - h. Summary (wrap up the ideas presented above and **tie back to the first point** of your claim/thesis)

## Body Paragraph #2: (6-8 sentences)

1. Write your **Topic Sentence** (1 sentence)
  - a. **Example: see body paragraph #1**
  - b. Introduction of evidence, describe the scenario/context for your first bit of evidence
  - c. Supporting evidence from the text/film
  - d. Explain the importance of your evidence
  - e. Introduction of more evidence (transition to and introduction of your second bit of evidence)
  - f. Supporting evidence from the text/film
  - g. Explain the importance of your evidence
  - h. Summary (wrap up the ideas presented above and **tie back to the second point** of your claim/thesis)

## Body Paragraph #3: (6-8 sentences)

1. Write your **Topic Sentence** (1 sentence)
  - a. **Example: see body paragraph #1**
  - b. Introduction of evidence, describe the scenario/context for your first bit of evidence
  - c. Supporting evidence from the text/film
  - d. Explain the importance of your evidence
  - e. Introduction of more evidence (transition to and introduction of your second bit of evidence)
  - f. Supporting evidence from the text/film

- g. Explain the importance of your evidence
- h. Summary (wrap up the ideas presented above and **tie back to the third point** of your claim/thesis)

### **COUNTERCLAIM: (4-6 sentences)**

1. One reason **AGAINST** your position (counter-argument)

**Example: Some people might argue that Odysseus is not a hero because he makes the choice to pass Scylla that would result in the death of six of his men.**

- a. Reason to support your side that contradicts the reason against  
**Example: While this may be true** \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Introduction of evidence, describe the scenario/context for your evidence
- c. Supporting evidence from text/film
- d. Explain the importance of your evidence
- e. Summary (wrap up your idea presented, transition into conclusion)

### **Concluding Paragraph (4-6 sentences)**

1. Restate your thesis but in different language
2. Summarize/rephrase the main points you have made
3. Tie back to your **Hook**