

Name: _____

Oedipus Rex Writing Assignment

Due Date: _____

Objective: Choose a writing prompt from the list below and draft, write, edit and submit an analytical literary essay. The essay is meant to assess to what extent you can identify a symbol, motif or theme in *Oedipus Rex*; understand how it works; take it apart; and provide textual support. You are analyzing, NOT summarizing.

Requirements:

- 3-4 pages typed; size 12 Times New Roman font; double-spacing; 1-inch margins
- a clear thesis and arguments
- a formal writing style
- evidence to support each arguments with page numbers
- relevant analysis

Prompts:

1. Identify and analyze how characters in *Oedipus Rex* are connected to each other. How is an individual responsible for his fellow citizen's and society's wellbeing? How do an individual's actions affect others? Outline, draft and write an analytical essay with a contestable thesis statement, subarguments, textual evidence and literary analysis.
2. Can Oedipus determine his future or is he bound by the gods' will? Analyze fate and free will in *Oedipus Rex*. Which is more powerful in Oedipus's life? Why? Can an individual overcome fate? Why, or why not? Outline, draft and write an analytical essay with a contestable thesis statement, subarguments, textual evidence and literary analysis.
3. Analyze irony (situational, verbal and dramatic) in *Oedipus Rex*. How does irony affect the audience's reading of the drama? How does irony support the drama's central themes and ideas? Outline, draft and write an analytical essay with a contestable thesis statement, subarguments, textual evidence and literary analysis.
4. Sophocles suggests that seeking truth is a noble but dangerous endeavor. According to Sophocles and *Oedipus Rex*, what should man's relationship to truth ultimately be? Outline, draft and write an analytical essay with a contestable thesis statement, subarguments, textual evidence and literary analysis.

5. Create your own essay prompt for *Oedipus Rex*, but I must approve it! The prompt must focus on assessing your ability to analyze the text.