

***The Odyssey* Literary Essay – Sample Thesis Statements**

- The epic poem *The Odyssey* by Homer contains numerous names, such as the names of famous heroes and infamous villains or fools, and graphic depictions of post-war violence. The combination of names and violence serves to reinforce the idea of death's inevitability while simultaneously pointing to memories as a possible source of immortality.
- Odysseus, the protagonist in Homer's *The Odyssey*, embodies the difficulties that soldiers face when returning home from war, especially reintegrating into normal "polite" society. Although Homer frames *The Odyssey* as a story about peacetime and returning home to family and friends, the epic illustrates the inescapable consequences and traumas of war that soldiers experience.
- The diverse depictions of females in *The Odyssey* by Homer, ranging from the chaste, loyal Penelope to "the bewitching nymph, the lustrous goddess" Calypso, are projections of men's deepest fears and fantasies, such as unfaithful wives and double standards for marital fidelity.
- *The Odyssey* by Homer is a stern warning against overindulgence, especially in behaviors that cloud the mind or distract an individual from his or her goals. In Odysseus's case, overindulging in his vanity and physical pleasure leads to detours during his journey home. The text metaphorically suggests that giving in to temptation and pleasure destroys families.