

Name: _____

The Odyssey 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 *The Odyssey*; understand how it works; take it apart; and provide textual support. You are analyzing, NOT summarizing.

Requirements:

- 2-3 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 the depiction of women in *The Odyssey*. Is woman an inspiration to men? Guide? Temptation? Enemy? What does the text suggest about females, their roles in society and relationship to men? Outline, draft and write an analytical essay with a contestable thesis statement, subarguments, textual evidence and literary analysis.
2. Analyze violence in *The Odyssey*. What causes violence? Why does Homer inundate the reader with depictions of graphic violence? What does the text suggest about violence? Outline, draft and write an analytical essay with a contestable thesis statement, subarguments, textual evidence and literary analysis.
3. Who are the gods in *The Odyssey* and how do they behave? Are they benevolent, kind and generous? Or petty, egotistical and selfish? Do they represent characteristics of all men? Nature? The unknown? Outline, draft and write an analytical essay with a contestable thesis statement, subarguments, textual evidence and literary analysis.
4. Consider temptation in *The Odyssey*. Who or what tempts? Why do men give in to temptation? How do heroes resist temptation? What is the relationship between temptation/resisting temptation and heroism? Outline, draft and write an analytical essay with a contestable thesis statement, subarguments, textual evidence and literary analysis.

5. *The Odyssey* discusses mortality and immortality through death, legends, history and memory. How does one stay mortal or become immortal according to the text? What is the relationship between heroism and immortality? Outline, draft and write an analytical essay with a contestable thesis statement, subarguments, textual evidence and literary analysis.
6. Create your own essay prompt for *The Odyssey*, but I must approve it! The prompt must focus on assessing your ability to analyze the text.